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Nigerian military ends four-year civilian rule

LAGOS (Reuters). — The Nigerian military staged their fifth coup in 17 years yesterday, seizing power from President Shehu Shagari and ending four years of democratic civilian rule.

Brig. Saleh Abacha, commander of a mechanized brigade in Lagos, said in an early morning radio broadcast that the coup had been a bloodless and painstaking operation.

But a military announcement on the radio said anyone caught disturbing public order would be dealt with summarily.

The announcement on state-run Lagos Radio, monitored in London, said the armed forces suspended the constitution, banned all political parties, imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew, closed airports, seaports and border posts, and cut all outside communications.

In London, a British Foreign Office spokesman, who declined to be identified, said it had received unconfirmed reports of an "effective and bloodless" military coup in the oil-rich nation, the world's fourth populous democracy.

The broadcast came two days after President Shehu Shagari announced a series of tough economic measures to try to correct what he termed Nigeria's critical financial state.

Diplomatic sources in Paris said Shagari, most of his Ministers and some members of the National Assembly had been arrested.

The Nigerian news agency,

monitored by the BBC, said the vice-president, Alex Ekwueme, and the Speaker of the House, Benjamin Chahwa, were taken from their homes before dawn by armed soldiers.

Lagos radio played the Nigerian national anthem in the morning, then aired the first military announcement.

"A special federal military government announcement: Fellow countrymen and women, I, Brigadier Saleh Abacha of the Nigerian army address you this morning on behalf of the Nigerian armed forces," the broadcast said.

Abacha, condemned economic conditions in Nigeria and said in the broadcast: "After due consultation over these deplorable conditions, I and my colleagues in the armed forces have, in the discharge of our national role as promoters and protectors of our national interests, decided to effect a change in the leadership of the government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and to form a federal military government. This task has just been completed."

A Nigerian military source in Zimbabwe said Abacha is a member of the rival Hausa tribe from Kano province in northern Nigeria.

Shagari, 58, a pro-West Moslem and former schoolteacher of the Fulani tribe, was re-elected to a second four-year term on August 6 with more than 12 million votes.

(Oil plot — Page 4, Col. 5)

Haifa ham hears of Israelis in Nigeria

HAIFA (Itim). — Amateur radio operator Yoram Kizler yesterday established contact here with a fellow ham in Nigeria who sent greetings from some of the 2,000 Israelis living there. They conveyed messages to their families here that they were well and safe.

Most communication with Nigeria was cut off yesterday when the government there was overthrown by a military junta.

Six killed, 50 injured in Marseilles blast

MARSEILLES (Reuters). — A bomb killed six people and injured at least 50 in Marseilles' main railway station last night, police reported.

The bomb, weighing three

About 1,200 of the Israelis in Nigeria are employed by the Histadrut construction firm Solei Boneh and a handful of other large companies. Others are on private business, and many road and building contractors were doing work for the government.

Zim received word from its representatives in Nigeria that all of the shipping company's people there were safe.

Arafat to tell PLO his motive for talks in Cairo

TUNIS (AP). — The meeting of the central committee of PLO leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, first scheduled for Friday night, is expected now to be held today, Palestinian sources said yesterday.

Arafat will then preside over a meeting of the Executive Committee of the PLO, the sources said.

He is to explain to the meeting his

decision to meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, a meeting criticized by some Palestinians.

Arafat arrived Friday from Sana'a, North Yemen, 10 days after being evacuated with his loyalist fighters from Tripoli, and three and a half months after leaving PLO headquarters in Tunis to join his embattled forces in Lebanon.

Israel's GNP increased by 1 per cent in 1983

By AARON SITTNER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Israel's gross national product — which rose by 3 per cent in 1980 and 5 per cent in 1981 — grew by less than 1 per cent in 1983 (after no change at all in 1982), the Central Bureau of Statistics announced on Friday.

The CBS also released data comprising preliminary figures for the 1983 National Accounts series. Final figures will be published in May.

Ezra Hader, who heads the bureau's national accounts department, told reporters that the balance-of-payments deficit deepened during 1983 by another \$400 million to stand at \$5.1 billion. "This occurred in the face of lower petroleum prices and a reduction in the growth of imports," he noted. "Without these two factors, the trade gap would have widened by an additional \$300m."

Imports of goods and services during 1983 increased by 16 per cent while exports rose by just 1 per cent.

As for private consumption, Hader said per capita spending for such things as cars, furniture, household goods and other durables

increased by an average of 5 per cent during the year.

Figured separately, car purchases, increased by 26 per cent in 1983 (after rising 37 per cent in 1982 and 127 per cent in 1981.)

However, the spending spree of 1983 — a year when the GNP hardly expanded — began stalling in the final quarter, Hader observed. Retail sales dropped 9 per cent and the purchasing power of government employees' wages retreated 12 per cent in the October-November period compared with those two months in 1982. Looking back at 1983, the bureau found that Israelis and their government paid, on average — 143 per cent more for the goods and services — (locally made and imported) they purchased during the year compared with the previous year. Locally produced goods rose in price by 152 per cent, compared with a 137 per cent rise in Israel's export prices and 131 per cent price rise on the merchandise and commodities it imported.

One of the most salient figures for 1983 showed that Israelis spent 22 per cent more for overseas travel and shopping than in 1982.

Reagan sees progress for Lebanese peace

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — Facing rumblings from Congress over the continued presence of U.S. marines in Lebanon, President Ronald Reagan yesterday voiced confidence that "progress is being made" in easing the tensions in that war-torn country.

But in his weekly radio address, the president conceded that the overall process is "painfully slow," noting: "It isn't easy."

Meanwhile, former vice-president Walter Mondale yesterday called on Reagan to withdraw the marines within 45 days in consultation with America's partners in the multinational peace-keeping force, Britain, France and Italy.

Mondale, the front-runner for the 1984 Democratic presidential nomination, said U.S. naval power, "which has proven its effectiveness," should be maintained off the shores of Lebanon.

A marine withdrawal Mondale said in a statement, could serve as a catalyst for "long-overdue steps" by Lebanese President Amin Gemayel's government to broaden its base and create national reconciliation by bringing in other groups.

Mondale's statement represented a shift in his position in an interview

published last Monday by *The New York Times*. He called for redeployment of the marines, but not a withdrawal.

Reagan spoke a day after House of Representatives Speaker Thomas O'Neill confirmed he was convening his special Lebanon-monitoring committee on Tuesday to consider revived congressional proposals to remove U.S. troops from the peace-keeping force. As part of a war powers resolution compromise, O'Neill earlier had supported an 18-month mandate for the peace-keeping presence.

But that agreement appears now to be in deep trouble in the aftermath of a special Pentagon report sharply criticizing U.S. political and military failures that resulted in the October 23 bombing of marine headquarters in Beirut in which 241 U.S. soldiers were killed.

Despite Reagan's statement earlier last week that he was taking full blame for the failure, Pentagon officials said Friday that some commanders may be subject to career-damaging "administrative punishment," although there would be no courts-martial.

Anxious to short-circuit the mounting congressional opposition, Reagan yesterday said the road to

Tone of talks with Egyptian encourages Israeli officials

Jerusalem Post Staff

While nothing concrete emerged from the two-day visit to Israel by Egyptian diplomat Shafi Abdel Hamid last week, his reaction to Israeli demands was positive and encouraging, senior officials in Jerusalem said last night.

Abdel Hamid, an assistant secretary of state at the Foreign Ministry in Cairo, left Ben-Gurion Airport on Friday expressing thanks for his "warm reception" here and gratitude to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir "who devoted to me all the time I needed."

"Our discussions," he said in a statement, "were characterized by frankness in order to speed up the peace process. The Israeli points of view," he promised, "will be promptly relayed to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Kamal Hassan Ali."

During the talks, David Kimche, the director-general of the Foreign Ministry, demanded that the Ex-

ecutive Programme of the cultural agreement between Israel and Egypt be immediately renewed, the officials said. The Executive Programme, which governs specific cultural activity between the two countries, expired last night.

Kimche also requested that all the joint committees, decided upon in various normalization agreements between Israel and Egypt, be convened. These committees, established in the fields of commerce and trade, tourism, culture and others, have either never convened or have not met in a long time, officials said.

Abdel Hamid was asked to push for the implementation of several "promises," made to Kimche during his visit to Cairo in November. These included pledges that tourism and trade relations with Egypt would be boosted.

Abdel Hamid promised to deal with all these requests positively and promptly.

Cabinet vote on budget expected today Orgad lowers his sights in bid for unanimity

By ASHER WALLFISH
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir hopes to win unanimous cabinet approval today for a 1984/85 state budget that would be smaller by \$600 million than

the 1983/84 budget.

Following Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad's agreement to set his sights lower and reduce his planned cut from \$1 billion to \$600m., Shamir expects today's cabinet session, like that of Friday when the

budget debate opened, to proceed in a relatively tranquil manner. At Friday's session, which went on for more than six hours, only half a dozen ministers managed to speak.

Interior Minister Yosef Burg is due to be first on the list of speakers this morning. A source close to him said he is expected to stress that the mood of the public, under the shadow of a crime wave, will not take cuts in the police budget lightly.

On Friday, Defence Minister Moshe Arens said that the cabinet would have a heavy responsibility if it cut the defence budget beyond a certain point, it would have to weigh the implications of whatever steps it proposed. Arens said particularly that the right sort of officer might not be attracted to the regular army if the material recompense did not match the effort and the risks.

Arens reinforced Cohen-Orgad's emphasis on the need to cut wages in the economy in general.

Deputy Premier and Housing and Construction Minister David Levy said the budget must provide special aid for the low-income sectors, which already are unable to cope with the erosion caused by inflation. He said that the budget must set aside money to create jobs in the development townships already hit

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)



Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad leaving the Prime Minister's Office at the close of Friday's special cabinet session summoned to hear and discuss his budget plans. (Ruhaimin Israel)

NEWS ANALYSIS / Avi Temkin

Cutting out what never was

If someone plans to buy a house with money he does not have, and then changes his mind, he can hardly be said to have saved his money.

Much of Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad's planned budget cuts are just this sort of elimination of proposed and quite improbable expenditure.

As ministers today renew their deliberations on the proposed framework for the 1984-5 budget, it is worth considering whether Cohen-Orgad's document has any meaning at all.

Cohen-Orgad's paper, "Economic Policy Framework for

1984 and Lines of Development for the years 1984-1987," contains most of the well-publicized targets of the Treasury, such as a \$1 billion reduction in the balance of payments deficit, and a seven per cent drop in private consumption. It also forecasts a rise in unemployment.

But the paper, presented to the cabinet on Friday, contains some elements that have not been so well stressed by the finance minister. Among the lesser known points are:

- Part of the planned budgetary slash will be executed on planned, not concrete, government activities.
- Despite the planned cut in

ministerial spending, the overall budget will be larger, not smaller than the adjusted budget for the current year.

• The level of government excess demand, the excess of spending over revenue, will increase over the coming budgetary year.

Before examining these three points more closely, it should be noted that even economists who have studied the Treasury document are not able to say that they understand it completely. It contains so many obscure points and so many question marks that the least

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

TNT takes blame for Hebron mosque blasts

By DAVID RICHARDSON
AND ROBERT ROSENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporters

The guard at a mosque in Hebron was slightly injured early on Friday morning when a booby-trapped grenade hidden in a plastic bag exploded as he opened the building for prayers. Shortly afterwards, a second grenade exploded in a nearby mosque, causing slight damage but no injuries.

Shortly after news of the two blasts was broadcast on Kol Yisrael, an anonymous telephone caller phoned the radio station and claimed responsibility for the attacks in the name of the TNT organization — Terror Against Terror.

The Hebron military government closed the immediate area of the mosques while troops and police searched for other devices. Reinforcements were brought in, and officials of the Judea and Samaria civil administration urged local leaders to restore calm before the traditional Friday midday prayers. No incidents were reported.

Police technicians have apparently established that both grenades were of a type in use with the IDF. Several similar attacks against Christian and Moslem targets in and around Jerusalem over the past months have involved similar grenades, and responsibility for

these attacks was also claimed by TNT.

Investigators have established that most of these attacks have taken place on Fridays or Sundays and Jerusalem police have accordingly been instructed to make searches and increase their patrols of Moslem and Christian residential areas and institutions on these days.

MK Yair Tsaban (Mapam) has placed an urgent motion before the Knesset to discuss the attacks, which he said endanger Israeli democracy. He has called for greater parliamentary supervision of the General Security Service, which is charged with counter-intelligence and internal security. Under its guidelines, the service is now responsible to the prime minister.

While radio stations and newspapers have been getting telephone calls from anonymous spokesmen claiming responsibility for the Terror Against Terror bombings, police are taking seriously only those calls that come in before the incident for which the caller takes blame is public knowledge.

There have been several such telephone calls, in which a spokesman claiming to speak for Terror Against Terror has taken the blame for "action in East Jerusalem," or otherwise general statements. The caller, speaking American-accented English with

European-Israeli intonation, has yet to be specific when reporting an incident for which he is taking blame. At the end of every telephone call the spokesman either quotes from the Bible — Psalms 94, for example, in which revenge is the major theme — or barks a short slogan, such as "Jewish blood is not cheap."

Several foreign correspondents based in Jerusalem have also received such calls.

David Rudge adds: Speaking in Haifa on Friday, MK Eliahu Ben-Elissar said that the sabotage attempts against Christian and Moslem holy places have "cast a shadow over all of us."

Speaking to members of the Haifa Engineers Club, he said those responsible for the attacks, whether individuals or an organized group, do not deserve to call themselves either Jews or Zionists.

Tim adds: A grenade exploded yesterday in front of the home of deposed Gaza mayor Rashad Shawwa. There were no injuries or damage.

Shawwa's son expressed the suspicion that the attack came following an interview with him the night before on Radio Monte Carlo, in which Shawwa called for a peaceful solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict and supported the recent meeting between PLO chairman Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Britain's 1953 plans to aid Israel revealed in cabinet records

By HYAM CORNEY
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LONDON. — Plans for Britain to help Israel build up its military strength were considered by the cabinet in 1953 but deferred, partly through fear of upsetting the Arabs, according to cabinet records to be made public here on Tuesday under the 30-year rule for official government documents.

At its meeting on August 7, 1953, the cabinet considered a "secret memorandum on Israel and Middle East defence" which had been prepared by its Defence Committee. Some months earlier, a delegation from the committee had visited Israel to discuss possible cooperation.

The Defence Committee agreed that our aim should be to help Israel build up her strength not only for her own defence but also as a contribution to a settled situation in

the Middle East. Britain should seek American support "in providing the arms and equipment that Israel would require."

The British ambassador in Washington was to be instructed to tell the Americans that "the defence of Israel, as far as the north and east as possible, will require facilities in Israel both in peace and in war. The extent of these facilities will depend on the outcome of our present negotiations with Egypt."

"But in broad terms we shall need in war the use of road and rail communications, ports and airfields in Israel... We shall also need facilities in peace for the storage of oil and possibly of equipment in Israel... Should we fail to obtain the base facilities which we require in Egypt, our requirements in Israel, both in peace and in war, will undoubtedly need further consideration."

"We also hope that Israel's armed

forces, which have already proved their fighting value, could be developed and used in such a way as to meet the needs of allied strategy for the whole Middle East area."

The Israeli government, the committee added, was in principle "ready to make the contribution we hope for" but would require help "and will have certain particular ideas and objectives of their own."

Israel would be unable to finance the "extensive capital investment required," and would "naturally wish to seize the opportunity further to improve their own armed forces and in doing so, their motive will be as much to make themselves more powerful in relation to their Arab neighbours as to provide against a

possible Soviet attack."

"They will expect to be taken into the confidence of the allies about the latter's plans for the defence of the Middle East. But the Israeli government are in no position to insist on their own point of view where that differs from the plans and wishes of the western powers upon whom Israel is dependent financially and economically."

In return for what Britain wanted, the committee advised, Britain must be prepared "to examine sympathetically Israel's requests for arms and equipment necessary to enable her to play her correct role" and must "give an assurance that Israel will be given as much information on the progress of our defence planning as the other Middle Eastern states."

Western help should be concentrated, the experts advised, on building up Israel's air force

because "the greatest deficiency in the forces available for the defence of the Middle East is in the air. Israel can provide better technical support for the air forces than any other Middle East country and in the event of war with the Soviet Union, the Arab countries might be less reluctant to see Israeli air forces operating over their territories than her land forces."

The British ambassador in Washington was to be warned that Britain realized that "the American government will not easily be convinced of the necessity for this policy."

"They will be reluctant to see the West identified yet more closely with Israel." The ambassador was also to be told that there was "no reason why any arrangement reached with Israel should become public or reach Arab ears."

The Defence Committee memo

was considered again by the cabinet when it next met, three days later, on August 10, 1953.

The Marquis of Salisbury, who held the post of Lord President of the Council and presided at the meeting in the absence of Prime Minister Winston Churchill, said he had "some doubts about the wisdom of making such an approach to the U.S. government at the present time."

"If any of the Arab states should learn that we contemplated building up Israel's armed strength, this could not fail to prejudice our current negotiations with Egypt and might lose us the good will of the Arab states."

According to the minutes of that cabinet meeting, Salisbury wondered whether "it would be wiser to hold up the suggested approach to the U.S. government until

(Continued on back page)

To our readers:

The Jerusalem Post is raising its prices from today to IS 65 for the daily edition and IS 90 for the Friday edition (including the weekend magazine and holiday eve issues).

Subscription rates which include VAT and free home delivery are as follows:

- One year IS 19,400
- Six months IS 10,250
- Three months IS 5,260

These prices are valid until January 31, 1984.

We appreciate the steady support and understanding of our readers during this period of rapid inflation, which has necessitated a continuous rise in the price of the paper. As in the past, we will try to keep future increases to a minimum.

The Editors

The weather at major Swissair destinations

	31.12.1983	MIN	MAX	
AMSTERDAM	8	41	8	Cloudy
BRUSSELS	1	24	8	Clear
BUENOS AIRES	19	68	86	Clear
CHICAGO	8	21	10	Clear
COLOMBO	3	27	8	Clear
FRANKFURT	3	27	8	Clear
GENEVA	3	27	8	Clear
HONG KONG	0	32	1	Cloudy
JERUSALEM	7	43	10	Clear
JOHANNESBURG	7	43	10	Clear
LISBON	7	43	10	Clear
LONDON	3	27	8	Clear
MADRID	0	32	1	Cloudy
MONTREAL	20	4	18	Cloudy
NEW YORK	7	19	3	Clear
OSLO	1	24	7	Clear
PARIS	3	27	8	Clear
RIO DE JANEIRO	20	68	86	Clear
SAO PAULO	18	64	82	Clear
STUTTGART	2	28	8	Clear
TOKYO	0	32	1	Cloudy
TORONTO	5	23	1	Snow
VIENNA	3	27	8	Clear
ZURICH	3	27	8	Clear

* For the latest weather conditions, contact Swissair.

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partially cloudy.

	Yesterday's Humidity	Yesterday's Min-Max	Today's Min-Max
Jerusalem	44	5-14	15
Golan	55	6-14	15
Naharyn	47	7-20	21
Safed	49	8-12	13
Haifa Port	49	11-19	20
Tiberias	40	8-22	23
Nazareth	39	8-17	18
Naqurah	46	4-20	21
Shimon	44	7-14	17
Be'er Sheva	57	9-18	19
R-G Airport	54	6-20	21
Jericho	36	7-22	23
Galilee	63	8-18	20
Beit Sheva	31	4-30	24
Eilat	34	9-22	22

ORGAD

(Continued from Page One)

Minister-without-Portfolio Mordechai Ben-Porat said that if any ministers feel they cannot remain in the cabinet because they do not agree with the budget cuts, they should tell their colleagues personally and submit their resignations to the prime minister and not to the media.

One of the ministers expected to speak this morning, Social Affairs Minister Aharon Uzan, may have been referred to by Ben-Porat. Uzan's Tami faction has said several times lately that if the low-income sectors which it claims to represent continue to bear the brunt of the squeeze, while the wealthy get by relatively unscathed, then it will walk out of the coalition and offer its Knesset votes to an alternative coalition led by the Alignment.

Although Education Minister Zevulun Hammer and the head of his National Religious Party Knesset faction, Yehuda Ben-Meir, are very unhappy about the prospect of reintroducing high school fees, the NRP as such has not taken a stand on the issue.

One NRP source said that it seems absurd for kindergarten fees to remain high while high school is free. The source added, however, that NRP voters, with so many teenagers in religious high schools, would not find it easy to pay tuition fees on top of the boarding fees they are already saddled with.

Friday's cabinet session dealt largely with general economic trends and the mood was calm and cooperative for the most part. Shamir said that the government must make every effort to maintain coalition unity, which is the key to tackling economic problems effectively.

He said the government could not avoid the tremendous responsibility of restoring economic stability. He said the options and the time at the government's disposal are limited. It must set the overall budget figure and enable the Ministerial Economic Committee to take it from there, Shamir said.

The public is perplexed because of the economic situation and it is very troubled, he said, adding that it is counting on the government to show a strong lead and speak with a united voice.

The Tehiya faction, which was alarmed last week at reports about a near-freeze on settlement in the administered areas, has apparently decided there is no need to threaten a coalition crisis, since the reduction in the settlement budget will not halt operations but rather only slow down some of the projects.

Avi Temkin adds: Cohen-Orgad told his cabinet colleagues that the proposed cuts must be made to avoid a foreign-currency crisis in the coming budgetary year.

He stressed that the budget, if implemented as proposed, could serve as the basis of a "social accord" with the Histadrut that would help fight inflation. Treasury officials said later that only by executing the proposed cuts would the necessary preconditions for this agreement with the Histadrut be fulfilled.

Italian visits Sinai

CAIRO (Reuters). — Italian Defence Minister Giovanni Spadolini yesterday inspected the Spadolini contingent of the Multi-National Force in Sinai, the official Middle East News Agency reported.

Hussein back home

AMMAN (AP). — King Hussein has returned home from a 17-day European tour, officials said Friday.

HOME NEWS

Public workers' sanctions spread

Jerusalem Post Staff
Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Aharon Uzan is expected to request cabinet authorization today to negotiate with ministry staff on their wage demands.

The dispute has already forced several dozen ministry institutions for children and the aged to close.

Ministry Director-General Ahsar Ohayon said last night that the Treasury would attempt to find a way to make direct payments to large welfare organizations subsidized by the ministry, which were not being paid last month due to the sanctions.

The Na'amat and WIZO women's organizations have said that they will close their day-care centres tomorrow if they do not receive their allocation from the ministry today. The national religious women's organization, Emuna, announced it will not close its day-care centres for the time being.

Ohayon said Uzan would consider issuing back-to-work orders to certain groups of workers only if the cabinet supports such a step for other ministries now crippled by sanctions.

Electric Corporation
The Electric Corporation's 3,800

employees in the central and southern region — more than half its entire workforce — intend to start job action from this morning to press their demands for additional benefits. Power supplies are not expected to be affected.

The employees are demanding the benefits which Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i said former corporation chairman David Haguel already had given them. The minister cited "overly generous payments" to employees as one of the reasons for ousting Haguel, who was forced to resign last week.

In addition, the employees are also demanding their wages be paid in cash twice a month, to compensate for rapid inflation. They also want an overall salary rise.

Asher Cohen, chairman of the works committee for the northern region, which has 3,200 employees, said they would not apply industrial action for the time being. The committee's representatives are to submit its demands, which are similar to those of their southern colleagues, to management today. "We will be calling on management to start negotiations immediately, but if this does not materialize, we will reserve the right to institute sanctions," he said.

Foreign Ministry

Israel's embassies and the Foreign Ministry head office in Jerusalem are to go on strike by mid-January, unless the ministry staff's longstanding demand for "special status" is accepted by then.

The ministry staff committee has mapped out a course of escalating sanctions which are to begin tomorrow and to lead to a complete strike within a fortnight. The staff committee is to announce the measures at an emergency general meeting this morning.

The Foreign Ministry staff has long contended that its work, both abroad and at home, involves long and irregular hours, specialized skills, and often personal danger — none of which is recognized or receives due recompense. Staff activists point to the Mossad and other branches of the defence establishment which do similar work — and give much better pay and conditions than the Foreign Ministry.

As a first sanction, the Foreign Ministry staffers would refuse to receive the public. Next, the consular department would be closed. Then, progressively, department after department, the whole ministry would come to a standstill.

Government hospitals to charge 'health levy'

By MARGERY GREENFELD
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Starting today, an extra IS700 "health levy" will be collected from everyone treated in a government hospital emergency room, after the hospitals' service and administration workers agreed on Thursday to postpone their threatened sanctions and to begin collecting the fee this morning.

The IS700 fee applies to all emergency-room patients, with or without a doctor's referral, except for soldiers, welfare cases, children under two years of age and those who are admitted to hospital straight from the emergency room.

This last provision effectively exempts accident victims, cardiac patients and others arriving at hospital in urgent need of ongoing medical care.

In addition to the emergency-room fee, the Health Ministry, with

the approval of the Treasury, is to begin collecting several other fees today. These include a IS100 fee for a visit to a government hospital outpatient clinic; the shekel equivalent of \$100 for an intra-ocular lens implant following cataract surgery; and an as-yet undetermined fee for in vitro (test tube) fertilization.

The 7,500 government hospital service and administration workers agreed at a meeting with Health Ministry representatives on Thursday to delay their sanctions until January 20, union chairman Ronnie Shalem told *The Jerusalem Post* last night.

The workers had said they would refuse to collect the emergency-room fee, contending that they could not be expected to take on extra tasks without adequate compensation, especially when a ministry-imposed hiring freeze is reducing their numbers.

The ministry has promised to try

to find a way to compensate the workers for the extra tasks by January 20, but if no solution can be found, the workers will stop collecting the fees on that day, he said.

As for the threatened sanctions to protest against the ministry's 25 per cent cut in overtime hours, Shalem said that the union had agreed to put off action until January 24. If no results are achieved by then, the union will return to its original plan to stop working overtime hours during the fourth week of every month, he said.

The Kupat Holim Clalit health-insurance fund continues to oppose the imposition of the so-called "health levy," spokesman David Tagar told *The Post* last night. It has not yet been decided to impose such a levy on all the country's hospitals, Tagar noted, adding that the situation "is still cloudy and still in the realm of talk. We are still against such a fee."

BUDGET PLAN

(Continued from Page One)

the ministers can do is ask an economic adviser to try to interpret it for them.

The 1984-85 budget will total IS1,443 trillion in terms of average prices of April 1983-April 1984.

The Treasury says it plans to cut some IS63b, compared to the 1983-84 budget — which it thinks will be IS1,506b. But this figure comprises not only actual expenditure, but also planned spending.

The total budget authorized by the Knesset for 1983-84 was IS1,441 trillion. This comprised only actual activities, not spending that was planned but not realized. On this basis, a comparison of figures shows that the budgetary totals for 1983-84 and 1984-85 are almost equal.

There was, during the last month, a surplus in actual expenditure over the authorized, revised budget, so a return to the authorized levels of expenditure would represent a cut.

One conclusion emerges from this: the government will be spending, during fiscal 1984, the same amount of money as was authorized during fiscal 1983.

Breaking down Cohen-Orgad's planned budget into its components reveals nothing but a redistribution of spending. Less will be spent on goods and services, and more on the repayment of internal and external debt.

The allocations to ministries register a real drop, under Cohen-Orgad's proposals, from some IS780b, in 1983 to some IS728b, in 1984.

Subsidies for basic commodities will decline from some IS70b, to IS59b, and expenditure on investment projects will fall from IS127b, to IS99b.

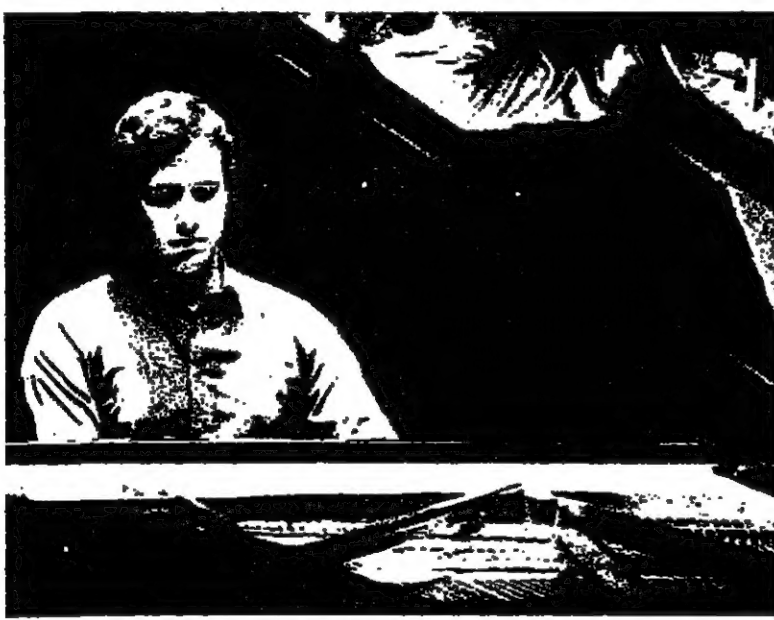
While these items will diminish, there will be a corresponding increase in the sums the government will pay back on loans. Israeli residents will have to be paid back some IS470b, (as compared to some IS470b, in 1983) while foreign creditors will have to be paid IS410b, (as compared to IS135b, in 1983).

Cohen-Orgad proposes a decrease in the amounts spent abroad on wages and purchases, from some IS122b, to some IS114b. This will mean fewer delegations, representations and employees abroad.

The document states that the government plans to raise IS190b, in new loans from Israel and IS260b, in loans from abroad — mainly civilian aid from the U.S., next fiscal year.

As a result of the large sums that will have to be repaid next year, the expected fall in tax revenues, the expected fall in tax revenues, the Treasury will be forced to print some IS96b, more in fiscal 1984 than it printed in 1983. The total in the government will total IS242b, in 1984, as compared to IS148b, in the current year.

This means that the Treasury is perhaps being overly optimistic in its economic forecasts. One thing is almost certain: given the surplus of spending over revenue, inflation is unlikely to go down in the coming months and, in addition, the fall in private consumption expenditure may not be as large as planned.



Winner Ilan Rechtman performs on Friday at the Francois Shapira piano competition held in Tel Aviv by the America-Israel Culture Fund. (IPPA)

Mubarak opposes anti-Semitism in press

CAIRO (AP). — President Hosni Mubarak told visiting U.S. Congressmen yesterday he is "totally opposed" to any anti-Semitic articles in the Egyptian press.

Mubarak's position was disclosed following an hour-long meeting he had with four Congressmen and their families.

One of the Congressmen, Florida Republican Thomas Lewis said: "The president said he is totally opposed to any anti-Semitic sentiments and writings because he

believes that Egypt and the Arabs in general have no conflict with the Jewish people and that the dispute with Israel is a purely political matter to be dealt with like disputes with other nations."

The U.S. should open a dialogue with the PLO without necessarily extending it official recognition, a leading Egyptian editor said on Friday.

"Contact does not always require recognition," wrote Ibrahim Nafieh, editor of *Al-Ahram*. Nafieh is known to be close to Mubarak.

Police prevent violence in Upper Nazareth

UPPER NAZARETH (Itim). — A large force of police prevented a violent confrontation here yesterday afternoon between supporters of the Sheli movement and Mena (a group urging limitations on where Arabs can live in the city).

About 40 Sheli members entered the Dado Community Centre

(named after the late chief of staff David Elazar) and began putting up posters proclaiming the right of Arabs to live anywhere in the country. A large number of Mena supporters began to shout abuse at them, whereupon police separated the two groups. The Sheli members left with police protection.

Man suspected of taking exams for others

TEL AVIV (Itim). — A resident of Kalansuwa was remanded by the magistrates court here for three days on Friday on suspicion of taking Hebrew matriculation examinations for others.

Seif ad-Din Taya, 23, studied at a Hebrew-language high school and offered to help some of his fellow villagers who were having trouble

with the exams, according to police investigators. He allegedly had his photograph pasted on the ID cards of two others, and took the test for them, charging IS60,000 for his services.

Taya said he had confessed and asked to be released, but the court acceded to the police request that he be held to enable further investigation.

Chad expects Libyan attack

N'DJAMENA (Reuters). — Chad President Hissene Habre said yesterday that Libyan troops are poised to launch a major offensive in the eastern part of his country.

Habre told foreign ambassadors that Libya would throw what he called major forces into an attack around Iriba, 130 km. from the Sudanese border, and that the attack is imminent.

Iriba is close to Biltine, where part of France's 2,500-man force, dispatched last August to stop advancing Libyan-backed rebels, is stationed.



A Druze soldier teaches children in a Dailat al-Carmel classroom, as part of a new programme in which Druze soldiers are placed in schools by the Education Ministry as part of their military service. (Israel Sun)

Nablus murder bullets match settler's Uzi, police tell judge

By ROBERT ROSENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A 37-year-old part-time resident of Elon Moreh has been remanded into police custody as the prime suspect in the murder of 11-year-old Aisha Adnan Ba'ash and the wounding of her sister after a demonstration in Nablus in early December.

Yosef Harnoi, a resident of the Tel Aviv area who also owns a home in Elon Moreh, was brought before Rehovot Magistrates Court on Thursday and ordered held for 10 days. As evidence, police told the court that they have matched 16 cartridges found at the door to the bakery in which the girl was shot to death with Harnoi's Uzi sub-machine gun.

Last night, police sources said they believe all material necessary for indictment will be prepared for the district attorney by the end of the 10-day period.

Pinhas Mahrabi, 30, was also remanded for six days, as a suspected accessory after the fact. According to the police, Mahrabi, a paid guard on Egged buses travelling in the territories, allowed Harnoi to switch parts from the alleged murder weapon in an apparent effort to obstruct a ballistics examination.

Mahrabi said he was "an inno-

cent victim" of a "trap" laid by Harnoi.

Ephraim Segal, 26, was remanded for an additional nine days. Held for the past week, as well, he has refused to cooperate with the police. According to police, Segal drove the getaway car from the scene of the murder.

In court on Thursday, police from the national serious crimes unit explained that in addition to the spent cartridges found at the scene of the crime, eyewitnesses have identified Harnoi as the man who shot the girl.

The police also told the court that Segal was arrested four months ago as a suspect in a murder case in the West Bank, but was subsequently released for lack of evidence. According to the police, Nablus residents "are afraid of Segal," and his release would have "surely eliminated the little cooperation we have been able to have from Nablus."

The girl was killed and her sister wounded, police said, after Segal and Harnoi had been removed by IDF forces from the scene of a demonstration in Nablus, and then returned to the alleyway, where some youths were throwing stones. Segal allegedly fired into the air, while Harnoi ran into the alley, about 75 metres from the road, and fired into the bakery.

IDF, closes Awali crossings to vehicles heading south

By MENAHEM HOROWITZ
Jerusalem Post Reporter

METULLA. — The IDF closed the Awali River crossings to south-bound Lebanese vehicular traffic on Friday, military sources in South Lebanon said. Pedestrians were allowed to cross, as were north-bound vehicles.

Security reasons were cited for the closure, with sources predicting that the crossings would be reopened soon.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens instructed the army, following his tour of Israeli-held Lebanon last week, to improve conditions at the crossings. He called for the construction of a separate facility for complete checking of vehicles.

Yesterday morning, a roadside bomb went off in Sidon when an IDF patrol passed the site. There were no casualties or damage, and the soldiers closed the area and conducted searches. Spiritual leaders of Lebanon's Sunni and Shiite Moslem communities called for nationwide sit-ins at mosques on Friday to express solidarity with attacks on Israel's army in South Lebanon.

Sheikh Hassan Khaled, grand mufti of the Sunni sect, said in a statement the sit-ins were to "demonstrate against the oppressive practices of the Israeli occupation, determination to resist it, and support for the legitimate struggle against it."

Brigadier General James Joy, the U.S. Marine commander in Beirut, said yesterday that security at the marine base was tightened following an extremist Moslem group's threat to attack if the American forces were not withdrawn by this weekend.

Joy said he took the ultimatum issued by the "Islamic Jihad" group "very seriously."

Building workers left without jobs in north

KIRYAT SHMONA (Itim). — Construction firms have been laying off large numbers of workers in the north, leaving many unemployed, and some without being fully paid.

Sole Boneh has dismissed 45 temporary workers, and is also laying off about 100 tenured

employees, some of them with 25 or 30 years' experience, according to Construction Workers Union secretary for the region, Ya'acov Teiler.

Other large firms have virtually shut down operations in the area, he said, and a number of small contractors have disappeared, leaving some workers, mainly young Arabs, unable to collect their final pay-cheques.

Unusual parole for illegal entry

HAIFA (Itim). — A special worker who crossed illegally into Lebanon 13 months ago was put under supervision of a parole officer without being convicted by Haifa District Court on Friday.

The 33-year-old woman admitted having crossed the border with a friend, an army officer who was serving in the reserves at the time. She was arrested upon re-entering Israel at the Rosh Hanikra border point.

Austria pays little heed to Wiesenthal's 75th birthday

VIENNA (AP). — Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal, internationally acclaimed for his efforts to bring war criminals to justice, celebrated his 75th birthday yesterday. The occasion, marked by a stream of congratulatory telegrams from abroad, generated little excitement here.

"I didn't even know he was having a birthday," commented a high-ranking government official.

A spokeswoman for President Rudolf Kirchschlaeger said the president had attended a low-key birthday ceremony on December 15 held by Vienna's Jewish community. No other commemorative gesture was planned, she said.

Wiesenthal was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize this year and holds numerous international honours including a U.S. Congressional Gold Medal presented by former president Jimmy Carter.

More than 1,800 invited guests, including actress Elizabeth Taylor and singer Barry Manilow, turned up to greet him in Los Angeles on



Simon Wiesenthal. (Camera Press)

November 6 in honour of his approaching birthday.

Wiesenthal, frail and gray-mustached, said on Friday that congratulatory telegrams had come from President Reagan, Carter and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and other international personalities.

The lack of government reaction to his birthday appeared to be the residue of more than a decade of personal feuds with former chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

But tensions are on the wane, suggested Wiesenthal, whose Jewish Documentation Centre, has tracked down hundreds of Nazi war criminals since it was founded in 1964.

Kreisky stepped down earlier this year in favour of Fred Sinowatz. "I do not think Kreisky's animosity has been transferred either to Sinowatz or to the other ministers," Wiesenthal said in an interview. "His resignation has brought some relaxation."

The quarrels began in the late 1960s, after revelations that several prominent Socialists had Nazi pasts. Wiesenthal, a Jew who spent time in several concentration camps during World War II, played a role in investigations leading to the exposures.

On June 11, 1970, the Socialists suggested a state ban on Wiesenthal's activities, implying he was conducting a vendetta against the party.

Kreisky, himself a Jew whose warm ties with Arab leaders were frequently criticized by Israel, joined the fray in earnest after 1975. Wiesenthal had revealed the Nazi past of Friedrich Peter, a prominent member of the centre-right Freedom Party.

Kreisky implied Wiesenthal was attempting to wreck Socialist-Freedom Party coalition plans. The quarrel frequently approached mud-slinging level and once ended up in the court before a mutual agreement to halt proceedings.

While hoping for better relations with the Sinowatz government, Wiesenthal remains critical of the judiciary's record in prosecuting war criminals.

"We have not had such trials since 1975," said Wiesenthal, challenging Austrian state prosecutors to take example from their West German counterparts.

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of

ARYE-LACI STERN

The funeral will take place today, January 1, 1984, leaving the Sanhedria Funeral Parlour, Jerusalem, at 2:00 p.m. for the Givat Shaul cemetery.

His wife, Bianca
His son and daughter-in-law,
Michael and Esther Shaham
His grandchildren, Yoav and Dafna

we will sit shiva at the home of the deceased, 6-Rahel Imenu St. Jerusalem.

The Dante Alighieri Society for the Diffusion of the Italian Language and Culture, mourns the passing of

ARYE STERN

For many years a dedicated and active member. The Jerusalem Chapter of the Dante Alighieri Society</

Fugitive rapist caught sleeping in yeshiva

By ROBERT ROSENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A two-day search for escaped rapist Shlomo Hilawe ended last Friday night in a Jerusalem yeshiva when two policemen, their guns drawn and with an audience of wide-eyed yeshiva students watching, arrested him.

Hilawe had disappeared from a Prisons Service outing for model prisoners last Wednesday.

"I got off the bus to buy cigarettes and the bus drove off without me," Hilawe told Jerusalem police commander Tat-Nitzav Rahamin Comfort at the end of the two-hour drama, which began when two yeshiva students told the guard at

police headquarters Hilawe was asleep in their school.

The two students from the Or Sameach Yeshiva, which specializes in newly religious Jews, took some time to persuade police to send a patrol car to find out whether the man who was in a drunken sleep at their school was the fugitive convict whose picture they had seen in the newspapers.

When police were convinced that the yeshiva students were not pranksters, they sent special operations officers to the yeshiva, which is at the edge of the Ma'at Dafna neighbourhood. The police parked their cars a short distance from the yeshiva — in part so as not to arouse

Hilawe's suspicions, but also, they said later, "so that the religious people wouldn't start a riot as we drove through."

Two officers were led through the building by a group of whispering students.

Reaching the room where Hilawe was sleeping, the officers drew their guns and burst in. It was an unnecessary precaution, for the fugitive was fast asleep, apparently still in the inebriated state in which he arrived at the yeshiva that afternoon.

It took some time for the officers to wake him. Before he was ready to be led away, he insisted on taking with him a Bible and a prayer book.

He was already wearing a ritual fringed vest.

By then it was close to midnight and a Ramle Prison van was already on its way to the Russian Compound, where Hilawe was taken.

In Comfort's office, Hilawe was in a jocular mood, but he refused to be more specific than "the bus drove away without me" when asked how he escaped. He was back in his Ramle Prison cell by 2 a.m.

Meanwhile, Salim Abid, another convicted rapist who escaped last week from prison is still at large. Police believe he may have already slipped over the border into Egypt and have notified the Egyptian police.

Kol Yisrael Consumer Day offers chance to sound off

By MARTHA MEISELS
Jerusalem Post Consumer Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Kol Yisrael's Second Programme next Wednesday will be devoted entirely to consumer affairs, with the exception of newscasts. The radio's Consumer Day will be co-sponsored by the Israel Consumer Council.

From early morning until late night, the radio and the council will maintain special broadcasting centres in the four major cities, plus sub-stations and nine mobile units. The public will be invited to bring defective products and other relevant problems for investigation by the consumer experts. Man-in-the-street polls will be conducted and their results analyzed by computer units donated for the day by a local firm. Results will be broadcast of studies specially prepared for Consumer Day on solar-heating systems, vehicle-service garages, banks, misleading advertising and faulty services.

Consumer Council chairman Dov Barzilai told a press conference that the council's budget for Consumer Day is \$150,000 — which he termed a small sum with which to reach a potential audience of thousands or even millions of people. This does not include the radio's share in the cost, and Eliahu Carmel, department head for talk shows, said Kol Yisrael will do this public service without making a specific tally of its cost.

Barzilai said current economic confusion has nearly trebled the number of letters the council receives each month from consumers seeking assistance compared with a few months earlier.

Businesses have been encouraged to make special offers in conjunction with Consumer Day, and several have already announced their plans. Revlon is offering a 30 per cent discount on lipstick, nail polish and eye shadow to any customer who brings in an empty or partially used old one from any brand. The offer is good from January 1 to 14. On Wednesday, Revlon offices at 65 Rehov Hovevei Zion in Tel Aviv will offer free lectures and demonstrations of its products at 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Alaska Sportline will give a blouse worth \$1,990 to any customer who buys \$10,000 worth of its merchandise on Consumer Day at one of its 15 branches.

Kitan will give two printed towels for every purchase over \$2,500 of bed linen, nightwear, towels or curtains at any of its 11 shops on Wednesday.

Papco will give a 20 per cent discount on all items labelled "winter clothing" plus a coupon toward future purchases worth 10 per cent of the amount paid on Wednesday. The offer will be good at seven Papco outlets — the factory shop in Tel Aviv, K'tanya in Herzliya; Popsy, Netanya; Amy, Jerusalem; Bon-Ton, Hadera; Lady Twig, Petah Tikva; and Bravo, Beersheba.

World banks watching us, says Japhet

By MACABEE DEAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The foreign banking community is closely watching economic and financial developments in Israel, paying particular attention to the banking system, Ernest Japhet, chairman of the board of directors of Bank Leumi said here on Friday.

He was summing up, for members of the Commercial and Industrial Club, the events of the outgoing year, and discussing plans for 1984.

Japhet, who has met recently with many of his foreign banking colleagues, noted that "they are following with concern the inflationary spiral in Israel and the growth of the state's external debts, especially after they failed in their loans to the developing countries and to the Eastern bloc."

"These foreign bankers are very appreciative of Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orad's intention to improve the adverse balance of payments, to cut the government budget, and so on."

Japhet said that exactly one year ago he warned that the "investment habits of the Israeli public might change," that people might pull out of the stock market and switch to index-linked bonds and foreign-currency accounts, "but never in our most pessimistic thoughts did we envisage what did happen."

Japhet said that to get the economy on the right path, there had to be a switch from the services to the productive sector. The government, he said, should keep its hands, as much as possible, out of the "free market place."

He said that a "partial delinkage" was inevitable, since every devaluation brought in its wake rising prices and wages, due to linkage, and the effects were quickly wiped out.

The government's monetary policy must also be changed. It is not enough to restrict the monetary policy of the commercial banks, steps must also be taken to control the "grey banking system," as well as the government's own use of credits, said Japhet.

Crew of U.S. battleship glad to be in Haifa

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — More than 10,000 seamen of the U.S. Sixth Fleet, about half the fleet's complement, visited Haifa during December, helping Haifa become its home away from home port, with navy grey the dominant colour.

Four more of the ships, including the battleship U.S.S. New Jersey, arrived on Friday with some 3,000 crewmembers.

In a press visit on board the World War II battleship for which Lebanon is its fourth shooting war, reporters were told it fired 11 shells from its 16-inch (403-

millimetre) guns at targets in Syrian-held territory near Beirut on December 14, and another 40 from its five-inch (126-millimetre) cannons on December 15. The big guns fire shells that weigh 13 tons each. The press officer said, "We all hope we won't have to fire again. It's awesome. But when we failed as a deterrent we had no choice but to fire back."

He told *The Jerusalem Post* that the crewmembers of the world's only operational battleship were confident they could protect against suicide pilots who might try to crash their plane on the ship. He noted that the 3,000-round-a-minute

Vulcan-Phalanx guns would likely be able to take care of planes but if one got through, the ship's armour, up to 425 millimetres thick, and the fact that it was designed to absorb Japanese kamikaze attacks in the Pacific battles, should see it through.

The New Jersey crew was happy to be in Israel. With the exception of an October call at Alexandria when the sailors had been recalled after only four hours ashore, they had been at sea since the ship left the U.S. for Lebanon four months ago.

Like all Sixth Fleet sailors coming from duty off Lebanon, their

pockets are bulging with pay and many are big spenders. It is estimated that during the month, Sixth Fleet sailors have spent nearly \$15 million in Haifa, giving the city's economy a big boost.

The other three ships with the New Jersey are the guided missile cruiser U.S.S. Ticonderoga, the combat support ship U.S.S. Detroit, which is buying fresh produce here to supply the fleet off Beirut and the destroyer U.S.S. Tattnall, which is undergoing repairs by the Israel Shipyard during its stay. A fifth vessel, the assault troop landing ship U.S.S. Trenton, is also still at the yard under repairs.

Ben-Gal: PLO won in Beirut; IDF should have hit Syria

TEL AVIV (Itim). — Former OC Northern Command Aluf (res.) Avigdor Ben-Gal said Friday that the PLO was not defeated in the Lebanon war and that it was a mistake for the Israel Defence Forces not to fight Syria as it pursued the PLO.

Speaking at a "Forum," a political discussion group established in memory of Moshe Dayan, Ben-Gal said he learned the major objectives of the Lebanon war from former prime minister Menachem Begin in a discussion a year before the war broke out: to defend Israel's northern border by destroying the terrorists and by establishing a "new

order" in Lebanon.

"The war against the terrorists failed," Ben-Gal said, when the IDF failed to conquer all of Beirut, out of a "lack of confidence." The PLO gained a further victory when it left Beirut with its weapons, he said. "It was clear to the political echelon that we were going to Beirut to capture Yasser Arafat."

Because there was no understanding in advance to strike at the Syrians, Ben-Gal continued, the war against them was called off after a few days.

Another mistake in the war was Israel's unfounded reliance on the Phalange and the Jemayel clan.

"When the IDF entered Beirut, the Phalange did not take part in the fighting and then question marks began to swarm around them," said Ben-Gal.

With regard to the future of Lebanon, Ben-Gal said "We erred in wanting to solve the problem of Lebanon without Syria, without which there can be no solution. If (President Hafez) Assad leaves the political arena, a Syrian leadership will arise that will be more radical in its position toward Israel and in its guidance of the PLO."

Ben-Gal offers two solutions: to attack Syria with France or to divide Lebanon with Syria. We must

strike at Syria with the French, he said, because alone Israel could win only with great sacrifice. The French have returned to the Middle East, their president has five years to go before elections and the French economy is based on Iraq, which the Syrians are fighting through their Iranian proxies.

The Americans have also crossed the threshold of war against an Arab country, said Ben-Gal.

The second solution, Ben-Gal concluded, is the partition of Lebanon. "Israel would annex Southern Lebanon *de facto*, and the Syrians would remain where they are today."

U.S. senator checks Rambam Hospital facilities

HAIFA (Itim). — U.S. Senator Gordon Humphrey (Republican-New Hampshire) on Friday toured Rambam Hospital here for a close-up view of its facilities for treating large numbers of wounded at a time.

Humphrey, a member of the Senate Armed Forces Committee, was aboard an American aircraft carrier off Beirut when terrorists truck-bombed the Marine headquarters in October. He was witness to the medical evacuation of the

wounded to Germany some 12 hours away and became interested in the possibility of the U.S. using Israeli medical facilities, such as Rambam.

The senator and his aides met with Rambam administrator Prof. Yosef Brandes and other personnel, and Humphrey told them he hopes new bilateral agreements will provide for Rambam to be used by the U.S. as an emergency hospital. This was the fourth official U.S. delegation to visit Rambam recently.

Compromise offered on substitute teachers

Jerusalem Post Staff
Education and Culture Ministry Director-General Eliezer Shmueli yesterday informed Teachers Union Secretary-General Amnon Avrahamson that the Finance Ministry has agreed to let district school superintendents approve hiring substitute teachers in some cases, despite regulations to the contrary.

In a recent measure designed to cut costs, school principals were

directed not to call in substitutes for the first three days of a teacher's absence. Instead, education students, soldiers or national-service volunteers are to be brought into classrooms.

But now, the ministry announced, the Finance Ministry has agreed that substitute teachers may be employed if no other person is available, according to guidelines to be prepared by government and teacher representatives.

Ministry to sue over contaminated Golan water

The Health Ministry will take Mekorot, the national water supply company, to court for supplying contaminated drinking water, the ministry announced last week. Previous communications to Mekorot and the water commissioner did not produce results, the

announcement said. The ministry has instructed the residents of the Golan localities involved — Keshet, Maaleh Gamla, Natur, Hispin and Ramat Maghshim to boil their drinking water, and has ordered Mekorot to renew chlorination of the water.

Amnesty opposes death for 2 Israeli Arabs

Responding to the death sentence passed by a military court last week on two Israeli Arabs for the 1980 murder of a soldier they had picked up hitchhiking, Amnesty International Israeli branch chairman Dr. Nitzan Shapira-Libai has announced the organization opposes the death penalty without any exception.

Amnesty International believes the deterrent value of capital punishment has never been proved. Shapira-Libai said in a statement. "We believe that the State of Israel must continue to honour the principle of not taking lives legally."

BULGARIAN THEATRE. — A Bulgarian State Theatre group is to appear in Israel in the first half of January for its first performances since the Six Day War.

Alert passenger removes bomb from Jerusalem bus

Police explosives experts on Friday dismantled a bomb on Jaffa Road near Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda market after an alert but somewhat reckless passenger removed it from a bus.

The bomb, enclosed in candy box with a watch wired to the top, was placed on the floor of a number 33 bus travelling from Kiryat

Menahem in southwest Jerusalem to Jaffa Gate. After a large number of passengers alighted at the market, at about 10:30 a.m., a woman noticed the suspicious parcel, and informed Yona Givoli, who had just taken a seat.

They shouted to the driver, who at first refused to stop because he thought that someone wanted to get

off between stations, but eventually, the doors were opened and all rushed out. The area was quickly cleared, with shops closing and passersby rushing off into side alleys.

Givoli, an Israeli living in Holland and here for a two-week visit, had mistaken the parcel for a package, he admitted, later, opened the parcel, and as he left the bus, he carried it out and pushed it

under the vehicle, thinking that if it exploded, it would cause less damage there. Soon afterwards, police arrived and the bomb was dismantled.

Following the incident, police reiterated instructions to the public not to touch suspicious objects, but to notify authorities immediately. (Itim)

Mobility on horseback for a disabled soldier

By DANIEL GAVRON
Jerusalem Post Reporter

THANKS TO the expertise of a British farmer, who has trained race-horses in Saudi Arabia, an Israeli war invalid will soon be riding freely around his kibbutz.

Rami Keich, wounded in the Lebanon war and paralysed from the chest down, is a good example of a successfully rehabilitated soldier. Having completed an accountancy course, he is back at the accounting office of Kibbutz Ayal, studying modern Hebrew literature at Tel Aviv University, teaching English to kibbutz children and swimming regularly at Tel Aviv's Beit Hachochim.

Despite his return to an active life, country-lover Rami still found something missing. Although he got around remarkably well with his special car and wheelchair, he missed wandering freely through the kibbutz fields and hiking through the countryside, away from roads and tracks.

Now, through the effort of the wife of a British rabbi and the skill of the British farmer, Rami is riding on horseback through fields of alfalfa and cotton and waiting eagerly for the specially trained horse that will make this activity easier and safer.

When Rabbi Michael Boyden and his wife, Anita, visited their friends the Keichs in Jerusalem after the Lebanon war, they were distressed to learn of the severe injury suffered by Rami, the family's eldest son.

Chatting with Rami, Anita Boyden, a keen horsewoman, was taken with a picture of Rami riding at his kibbutz before the war.

"Why don't you take up riding again?" she asked. Rami replied that he had been advised by his doctors that it was impossible.

But Anita Boyden was cautiously encouraging. She told Rami that not far from Hale in Cheshire, where she lived, was the Finlow Hill



Rami Keich in his first hours of riding still has an eye kept on him.

Riding Stables, which specialized in teaching disabled children to ride. The proprietor, John Clarke, was a leading instructor and lecturer on riding for the handicapped. Clarke had also helped prepare the British Olympic riding team and had trained race-horses in Saudi Arabia.

THREE MONTHS AGO, Rami found himself in England, as the guest of the Boydens, being hoisted on to the back of a horse at Finlow Hill.

"Rami was very nervous and emotionally charged as he was assisted onto the saddle of a large pony," says Anita Boyden. "Held from either side, with a strap to his back, he was slowly led around the riding school. He felt uncertain and insecure and complained of an inability to find his balance."

"The transformation over the following days was remarkable. After only five hours in the saddle, he was able to ride around the school by himself unaccompanied, controlling the movements of his horse, as well as maintaining his balance and posture. Those who were involved in this work were so amazed and overcome with emotion that they gave their services absolutely free of charge. Rami's courage and determination had made the impossible into reality."

Now Anita Boyden has launched an appeal, sponsored by the Duke of Devonshire, to buy Rami a trained horse and special saddle which will be brought to Israel.

Rami's own account is, predictably, rather more laconic: "I felt awful at first," he says. "I felt a sack of potatoes. I was quite helpless. I kept keeling over sideways and they had to push me upright. But gradually, by using my

hands, I found my balance and began to adapt to the movement of the horse."

After this breakthrough, Rami found himself making swift progress. Today, he can even trot, using his hands to post (rise) with the joggling of the horse.

However, his real moment of triumph was back at Kibbutz Ayal, when he went for a ride with friends through the fields. He is now looking forward eagerly to the arrival of his own horse because the kibbutz horses are not sufficiently disciplined and he is taking something of a risk by riding them.

ANITA BOYDEN, meanwhile, after searching all over England, has found a suitable mare which is being trained at Finlow Hill. Rami has already been measured for a special "western" saddle. It is deeper than the normal riding saddle, lined with sheepskin to prevent bruising, and fitted with handles for him to grasp. Maof Airlines flew the frame from England and back free of charge, and El Al has promised to fly the horse out, also without payment.

Once the horse is trained, Rami will fly to England to get acquainted with her before she is brought back to his kibbutz. At Ayal she will also be at the disposal of the kibbutz children. The kibbutz is pleased to be getting the horse and is cooperating in every way.

Next month, Rami's period of candidacy is over and he intends to become a member of the kibbutz, which has shown great understanding for his situation. He knows of fellow-wounded who have been less fortunate, "but I have had no problems at all," he says.

The experts at Beit Hachochim remain somewhat sceptical about the horse, but Rami's fellow-wounded are very keen. They have promised to visit him when the horse arrives.

And Rami is confident that the idea of riding for the handicapped can be developed in Israel, giving greater mobility and freedom to many who had previously been confined to wheelchairs.

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Senior S. African Navy man and wife jailed for spying

CAPE TOWN (AP). — South African Navy officer Dieter Gerhardt was sentenced yesterday to life in prison and his Swiss-born wife Ruth to 10 years for spying for the Soviet Union.

Cape Province Supreme Court Judge G.G.A. Munnik pronounced sentence for Commander Gerhardt, 48, and his 41-year-old wife following their conviction Thursday on charges of high treason. The maximum sentence could have been the death penalty.

The sentencing, like the trial itself, was held behind closed doors. Cape Province attorney-general Neil Rossouw disclosed the sentence to a crowd of reporters outside the courtroom, saying the judge had asked him to do so.

Defence attorney J.F. van Niekerk confirmed that defence teams had filed a request to appeal both convictions and sentences. Neither Rossouw nor Van Niekerk would answer questions about the sentencing proceedings.

Security was again strict, with police totting automatic rifles guarding the courthouse. Before sentencing, Mrs. Gerhardt smiled as she paused for photographs and joked, "I'm not good for pictures today. I look as if I have slept in my dress."

Her husband looked straight ahead without a smile as they went into court. They were whisked away

after sentencing in a convoy of four cars and three motorcycles.

A 21-year navy man, Gerhardt admitted during the trial that he worked for Soviet intelligence for more than two decades, but claimed he was a double agent working for western intelligence and was feeding "disinformation" to the Soviets.

He refused to name the intelligence service he claimed to work for, but said it was not hostile to South Africa.

Mrs. Gerhardt maintained she was ignorant at first of her husband's activities while acting as a courier, and then had accepted his story that he was a double-agent working for South Africa.

Munnik rejected both their accounts and said the evidence showed that both had worked solely for the Soviet Union, he since 1962 and she since 1970.

In London, two British lawmakers said they intend to question Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher about the spy case when the Commons returns to work in mid-January.

Kenneth Warren of the ruling Conservative Party and Labourite Ted Leadbitter told reporters they are not satisfied with British Defence Ministry assertions that Gerhardt could not have given the Soviet Union secret information about the Royal Navy's latest warships and weapons.



Representative Jesse Jackson (left), a Democratic candidate for the U.S. presidency, shakes hands with Syrian Foreign Minister Abdel Khalim Khaddam in Damascus yesterday. (UPI)

Syria: End U.S. flights to get pilot out

DAMASCUS (Reuters). — American black civil-rights leader Jesse Jackson said yesterday Syria wants evidence that U.S. reconnaissance flights over Syrian positions in Lebanon will stop before it releases a captured American airman.

Jackson, who is campaigning for the U.S. Democratic presidential nomination, was speaking to reporters after two hours of talks with Foreign Minister Abdel-Halim Khaddam.

He said he was to meet President Hafez Assad and the American airman, Navy Lt. Robert Goodman, later in the day before more talks

with Khaddam.

Jackson, who arrived Friday, said a doctor in his delegation would be allowed to examine Goodman, who was shot down in a bombing raid over Lebanon last month.

Syrian anti-aircraft batteries have also fired on U.S. planes flying reconnaissance missions, triggering American naval bombardments in response.

"There is a basic (Syrian) feeling that if he (Goodman) is released without the Syrian position being adequately understood, it might be an inducement to further flights," Jackson said.

435 winter deaths in U.S.

NEW YORK (AP). — The big American chill of 1983 iced the citrus groves and vegetable fields of southern Texas with a second dose of some of the coldest weather of the century Friday while 4.6-metre snowdrifts blocked highways in the northwest.

Meanwhile, the National Weather Service predicted below normal temperatures in January for most of the U.S. east of the Rocky Mountains and above-average precipitation.

The death toll from the cold and storms since December 17 climbed

to 435. There were record lows Friday in at least 41 cities across the central states and south to the Gulf Coast, with Illinois, Indiana and Ohio turning in many of the coldest readings. It was minus 26 at Springfield, Illinois, and minus 24 at Indianapolis, Indiana.

Low temperature records were set in 14 Texas cities and the minus 12 reading at Laredo was the coldest there this century. Earlier freezes had left damage to citrus and vegetable crops estimated at \$400 million in Florida, Texas and Louisiana.

Queen Elizabeth honours 677 notables

LONDON (AP). — Queen Elizabeth II yesterday bestowed New Year's honours on her favourite bandleader, 74-year-old Joe Loss, New Zealand prime minister Robert Muldoon and one of Britain's top fashion designers, Jean Muir.

Acting on recommendations from Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the queen also honoured Joyce Smith, a 45-year-old housewife who won the women's race in last year's

London Marathon, actor Frank Finlay and broadcaster Alastair Burnet.

The 677 honours went to doctors, scientists, poets, teachers, social workers, police officers, secretaries, a quilt-maker, a judo expert and an anti-smoking campaigner.

Thatcher, who in effect decides on the honours, awarded knighthoods to three former deputy ministers she sacked after last June's general election.

Gromyko-Shultz meeting slated for Stockholm

WASHINGTON (AP). — The first high-level contact between the U.S. and the Soviet Union since the U.S. deployment of nuclear missiles in Europe — a January 18 meeting between Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz — was announced on Friday by the State Department.

Gromyko and Shultz are scheduled to meet in Stockholm during a disarmament conference held by the 35 signers of the Helsinki Accords on East-West relations.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said President Reagan was "pleased the meeting will take place. We do regard this as a positive element in that it will continue the dialogue we have had with the Soviets," Speakes said on Friday.

TASS: U.S. behind Tehran trial of Iran Communists

MOSCOW (AP). — The Soviet Union on Friday said a Tehran trial of Iranian Communist Party members was organized by the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

A number of Tudeh Party members, the fourth such group this year, went on trial last Thursday before a military tribunal. The Iranian government has accused them of spying for the Soviet Union and seeking to sabotage the Islamic revolution.

The Soviet statement, published in yesterday's editions of *Pravda*, was carried in advance by TASS, the official Soviet news agency.

"The trial is being conducted as yet another link in the chain of provocations against the Soviet Union organized by the Western special services and first of all by the Central Intelligence Agency of the U.S.," the statement said.

"This trial on trumped up charges is a component part of the crusade organized by the Washington administration against socialism and against all progressive, democratic forces in the world," *Pravda* said.

The commentary accused Washington of attempting to topple the country's present leadership and "bring Iran back under its rule."

Staff strike closes Eiffel Tower

PARIS (AP). — Thousands of tourists were turned away from the Eiffel Tower yesterday when employees went on strike to protest against their working conditions.

Hundreds of hopeful tourists stayed at the base of France's most famous monument in sunny, spring-like weather, in case the strikers changed their minds and opened the elevators and stairs. But the only people who could get a view over Paris in the excellent conditions were diners at a restaurant on the tower's second level, whose private elevator continued working.

Afghan-Pakistan border area rocked by quake

ISLAMABAD (AP). — At least ten people died and some 30 were injured in an earthquake that jolted the Pakistan-Afghanistan border early yesterday, Pakistani officials said.

The Upper Atmospheric Research Centre in Peshawar, 160 kilometres northwest of here, said the earthquake had a magnitude of 6.5 on the Richter Scale. But the U.S. weather bureau in Colorado, which monitors ground sensors around the world, said the quake measured 7 on the scale.

The earthquake shook most parts of northern and central Pakistan at 4:53 a.m. yesterday. Its epicentre was located 250 km. north of Peshawar in the Hindukush range of mountains on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

No reports of damage or casualties have been received from Afghanistan so far, the officials said.

Argentine generals informed of their impending trials

BUENOS AIRES (AP). — The three military junta members who started the 1982 war with Britain over the Falkland Islands were notified on Friday by the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces that they will be tried for their part in widespread violations of human rights.

The retired officers — Gen. Leopoldo Galtieri, Adm. Jorge Anaya, and air force Gen. Basilio Lami Dozo — presented themselves at the downtown offices of the Supreme Council for formal notification of the beginning of the military judiciary's action against them.

Two former military presidents, Jorge Videla and Roberto Viola, have also been accused by the Supreme Council of using "manifestly illegal" methods in the repression of subversives during the late 1970s.

The five were named in a December 13 decree by President Raul Alfonsín ordering the prosecution of nine retired generals and ad-

mirals who served in the three successive, three-man juntas that ruled the country from a 1976 coup until 1982. Alfonsín took office on December 10 with a pledge that those responsible for rights abuses would be punished.

Alfonsín's decree said the nine were responsible for the "conception and instrumentation of an anti-subversive and anti-terrorist operational plan based on manifestly illegal methods and procedures." He said the Supreme Council's investigation "will address the crimes of homicide, illegal deprivation of liberty and torturing of prisoners."

The council on Thursday did not issue specific torture and murder charges against the four retired officers, but rather complied with the formality of informing them of the beginning of its deliberation.

Local and international rights organizations accuse the recently ended dictatorship's security forces of the abduction, torture and murder of thousands of suspected subversives.

Timerman plans return to Argentina

NEW YORK (Reuters). — Exiled newspaper publisher Jacobo Timerman is returning to his native Argentina in the next few months to try to bring his torturers to justice, he said in an interview published yesterday.

He told *The New York Times* he would also take legal action to recover his daily paper, *La Opinion*, which was confiscated and later sold off by the former military government.

Timerman, now an Israeli citizen,

was expelled from Argentina in 1979 after being held for nearly 2½ years. He was never formally charged, but the military accused him of having close links with left-wing guerrillas.

His decision to return follows the installation of an elected civilian government this month after more than seven years of military rule. President Raul Alfonsín's administration is investigating widespread charges that officers kidnapped, tortured and murdered political detainees.

Salvador drops news ban on guerrilla-war coverage

SAN SALVADOR (AP). — The Salvadoran government on Friday lifted an order prohibiting journalists from using unofficial sources in reporting the country's four-year-old civil war, just hours after it was issued.

The government lifted the restriction without explanation.

The order had followed a heavy guerrilla attack earlier in the day on a military garrison 58 km north of San Salvador, the capital. Sources said it was the first time in the history of the war that guerrillas had

seized an army brigade. But the Defence Ministry denied that the rebels had captured the garrison.

A U.S. Embassy official who asked not to be identified said as many as 1,000 leftist rebels, firing mortars, grenade-launchers and automatic rifles attacked the army's 4th infantry brigade early Friday, and a few hours later overran most of the government positions to seize control.

The officials said that by noon the rebels were driven from the base, located in the town of El Paraíso.

Britain and Canada will try to improve UNESCO

LONDON (Reuters). — Britain announced on Friday that it has decided to remain a member of UNESCO and to seek reform of the UN agency from within.

A Foreign Office statement said Britain fully understands the reasons which have led the U.S. to give notice of its withdrawal last week, effective at the end of 1984. But it said Britain will continue to make every effort for radical improvements in the programme and management of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

In Ottawa, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman said Canada had expressed regret to Washington over the U.S. decision. "As is well known, we share some of the U.S.

misgivings about the activities and initiatives of the organization," the spokesman told reporters yesterday. "But we believe that there can be a better possibility for setting it right from within than from outside."

In Paris, the head of UNESCO expressed regret at the U.S. decision. A communiqué said Amadou Mahtar Mbow was studying the terms of a communication from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

The communiqué said the director-general has consistently stressed the need to safeguard the universality of the 161-member organization, and "can only regret a decision which if put into effect, would be prejudicial to the principle of that universality."

Vatican may repay loans

ROME (AP). — The Vatican is ready to pay for part of the bad loans made by Banco Ambrosiano that led to the collapse of Italy's largest private bank, the country's leading newspaper reported yesterday.

The Milan daily *Corriere della Sera* also said Italian magistrates have seized assets worth more than 600 billion lire (\$398.) belonging to more than 50 people allegedly involved in the bankruptcy of Banco Ambrosiano.

The seizure, including real estate, business establishments, cash and stocks, is the largest in Italy's history, the paper reported.

The newspaper quoted uniden-

tified sources as saying that the Holy See "appears disposed to close the case" by paying up to 400 billion lire (\$265.) to the bank's creditors.

Banco Ambrosiano collapsed last year shortly after its president, Roberto Calvi, was found hanging by the neck from a London bridge. About the same time, bank examiners discovered \$1.2b. in bad loans and interest that Calvi had arranged for several dummy Panamanian companies that turned out to be owned by the Vatican.

The Vatican has denied any wrongdoing, but the Italian government has been pressing the Holy See to assume some responsibility for the debts.

Oil glut gave Nigerian economy tough blow

Nigeria is black Africa's richest country thanks to large oil reserves. Massive price increases of the commodity in the 1970s brought boom years to the country, but since then Nigeria has been hard hit by the world oil glut.

These are the key facts about Nigeria:

- Population: 80 to 100 million (last accepted census in 1963 gave 55.6 million). It is the most populous country in Africa, with about 200 tribes, the three main ones being the Hausa-Fulani, the Ibo and the Yoruba. Northern Nigeria is mainly Moslem and southern Nigeria mainly Christian. There are innumerable animist groups throughout the country of 924,625 square kilometres.

- Armed Forces: Army — 125,000 men, 60 T-55 and 30 Scorpion tanks. Navy — 4,000 men, two frigates, four corvettes, six fast attack craft, eight patrol craft and nine coastal patrol boats. Air force — 9,000 men, 30 combat aircraft.

- Economy: Gross National Product 1980 — \$85.5 billion. Per capita income \$1,010. Main exports — petroleum (about 95 per cent), tin, coal, columbite, cocoa and rub-

ber. Main imports — raw materials, capital equipment, food and consumer goods. Inflation rate — (1970-79 average annual rate) 19 per cent.

- Modern History: The Federation of Nigeria achieved independence from Britain and became a member of the Commonwealth on October 1, 1960, and a federal republic in 1963.

Competition for power among the three main tribes in the first five years of independence led to chaos; and parliamentary democracy ended with a military coup by Gen. Yakubu Gowon in January, 1966. A civil war raged from 1967 to 1970, ending in defeat of the Ibos who had tried to secede and form the state of Biafra.

The military government suspended federal and regional constitutions and dissolved parliament and regional legislatures. Nigeria was divided into 12 states by decree in May, 1967, and the number was increased to 19 in January, 1976.

Following promulgation of a new constitution (based on the U.S. model) and elections in July-August, 1979, the country returned to civilian government after 13 years of military rule.

Athaji Shehu Shagari of the National Party of Nigeria became president, taking office on October 1, 1979. The major scars of the bitter Biafran conflict appeared to have been healed when in May, 1982, Shagari pardoned Emeka Ojukwu who had led the Ibos during the war.

Nigeria went through economic hard times when the world oil glut began to bite in mid-1982, slashing oil sales and the country's foreign exchange earnings, more than 90 per cent dependent on oil.

Shagari was forced to impose stringent austerity measures in April, 1982, to bring foreign spending under control.

Further austerity measures failed to bring about an economic upturn. This and the approach of elections in August, 1983, appeared to have been in large measure responsible for the shock expulsions of more than two million West Africans working illegally in Nigeria at the start of the year.

Shagari said in April, 1983, that Nigeria was seeking a loan of \$2b. from western banks to finance its balance-of-payments deficit. (Reuters)

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NA'AMAT is ready to fight to the finish against two regressive legislative proposals in the area of personal status. One is a move to lower the minimum marriage age for women from 17 to 16. The other is a proposed expansion of rabbinical court jurisdiction, with a concomitant restriction of the options open to secular Israelis — particularly to women.

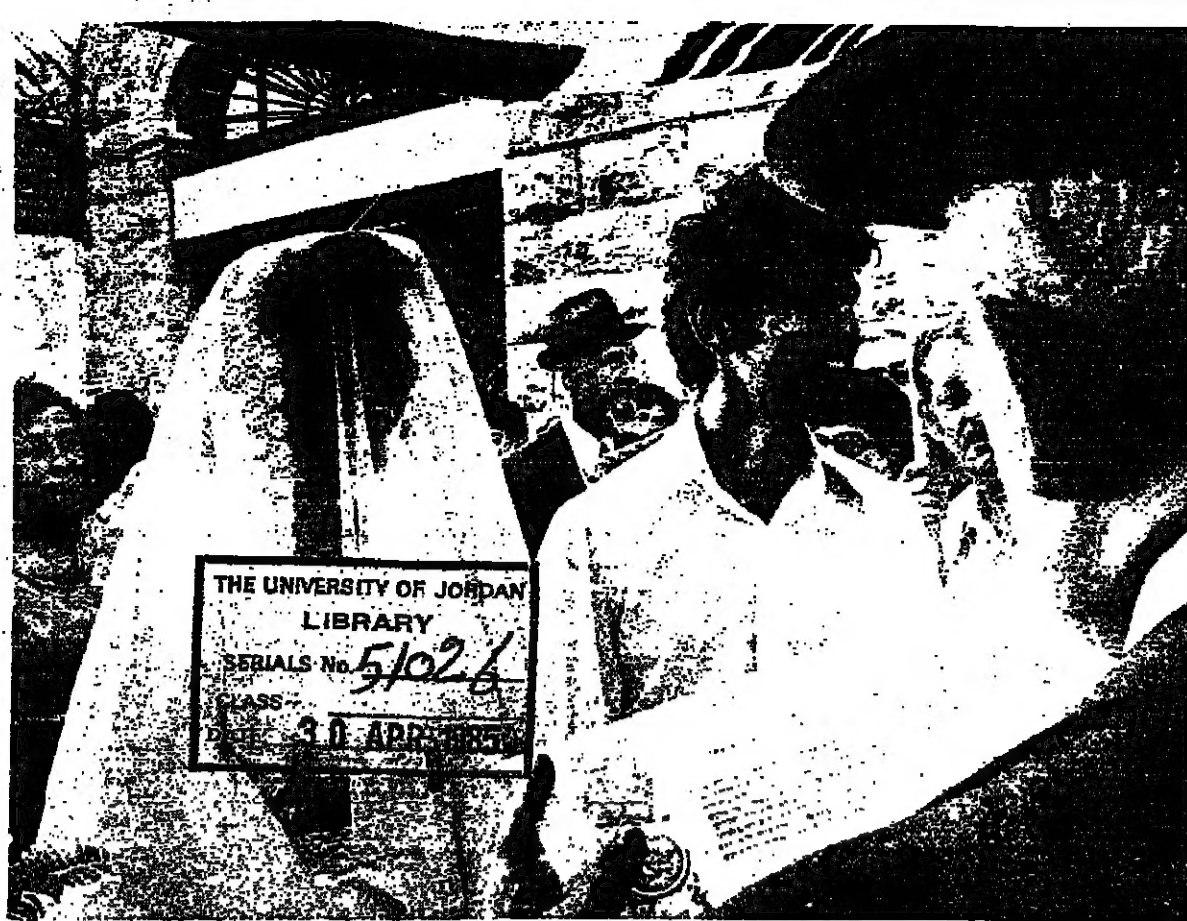
"I was at the university recently and I took the opportunity to lecture to some students about these proposals," says Attorney Haviva Avigai, head of Na'amat's Legal Aid Service. "They were angry, and that's fine because if we have to resort to demonstrations, we will want as many women as possible behind us."

Na'amat secretary-general Masha Lubelsky hopes arousing public opinion will be enough: "We were very pleased when Dr. Sadan — who was supposed to have been Agudat Yisrael's representative at the Ministry of Health on abortions — resigned because he could not push through his recommendations. We won that battle but now we see that we still have not won the war."

In her view, the Ministry of Religious Affairs' bid to add 27 new sections to the rabbinical courts' (marriage and divorce) law is really a National Religious Party attempt to show potential voters that it is no less "religious" than Agudat Yisrael. Though MK Meir Cohen Avidor (who wants to lower the marriage age) is from the Likud, Lubelsky thinks he, too, is trying to woo religious voters.

"After all," she says, "he did not claim that social-workers or psychologists or sociologists or other professionals recommend early marriage for women. His explanations of why the marriage law should be lowered have to do with family purity and honour. He thinks the solution to sexual freedom is marriage, which our experience shows is just not true."

When the current law setting the minimum age for marriage at 17 was passed in 1950, it was a compromise between 18 — which is what Na'amat recommended — and 16, which is what the religious parties



Marital discord Na'amat is gearing for a fight against two proposals affecting the laws on marriage. The Post's Lea Levavi talks to leaders of the women's organization.

serious issue we have here."

Na'amat still has not received a copy of the memorandum and therefore its leaders do not yet know all the proposed changes. What they do know, however, is more than enough. For example, the rabbinical courts would have the final say in what conversions are acceptable (a back-door way of changing the "Who is a Jew?" law *de facto* without needing a Knesset majority). Rabbinical courts would have the power to hear testimony in cases of fixed marriages and to deal with cases where one spouse is Jewish; until now, the courts have had jurisdiction only when both spouses are Jewish.

The proposal also calls for the rabbinical courts to have the final say in whether marriages performed outside the rabbinate are valid or not. This could close the loopholes which have until now been available to those who cannot marry under Jewish law (such as a *cohen* and a divorcee), including proxy marriage

registered would be threatened. Under civil law, vested rights cannot be taken away — but this may not be true in the rabbinical courts which base their decisions solely on what Tora law allows or forbids.

Avigai questions if the proposal would harm the status of unmarried husbands and wives — i.e. common law couples who are not legally wed. She says she has not yet heard about any section of the proposal dealing with the problem, but she would not be surprised if there was one in view of the general direction in which the law seems to be going.

Until now, mothers dissatisfied with custody decisions of rabbinical courts could appeal to the civil courts, ostensibly in the child's name. The proposal would close this option. Since rabbinical courts tend to award custody of boys over age six to their fathers — particularly if the father succeeds in proving that he is more religious than the mother — Na'amat strongly opposes the change. In the civil courts, Lubelsky notes, professional experts are called upon to assess what custody arrangement would be best for the child. Religious considerations — which are the main interest of the rabbinical court — are not necessarily the most important factors in determining the child's best interest.

The proposal aims to equalize the status of rabbinical court judges to that of civil judges, making it possible — for example — for a rabbinical court pleader (*roten*) to serve his apprenticeship under a rabbinical court judge instead of under a lawyer. Along the same lines, such rabbinical courts would be given full jurisdiction in civil matters, such as in financial disputes, if both parties agree. This is of less immediate concern to Na'amat than the personal status issues, except in the sense that it threatens to create two legal systems instead of one.

"I personally come from a traditional family and maintain certain aspects of Jewish tradition," Lubelsky says, "but it is a matter of choice. When a small religious minority forces its values on a secular majority, when they try to change Israel from a country of law

Morning glory Mum's the Word/Judy Labensohn

IT TOOK me six-and-a-half years of over-mothering to realize that I had been neglecting the children's father, otherwise known as "my mate."

"Ah yes, you're the fellow I've been rooming with," I imagined saying to hubby after the nest emptied. But he had no intentions of waiting that long. His ultimatum was clear: "You'd better get your roles straightened out — and I don't mean the breakfast rolls."

I agreed to re-allocate one hour per week of my precious mothering time to mate.

"I won't talk about toilet training. I won't spread chocolate goop on crackers. I won't tie a shoelace, wipe a tush or read *Winnie-the-Pooh*." I promised dutifully, uncertain if I could really carry it off.

"But when and where?" we asked each other, bewildered. The apartment, which had seemed so spacious two pregnancies earlier, now seemed cramped. As babies, the children didn't take up so much space. The first one even slept in a bottom drawer for a few weeks until the crib arrived. But they grew, establishing facts in the bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen and living-room. They occupied not only our time, but also our territory.

"Borders! Borders!" mate ran around the apartment, ranting. "We must define some borders in this place. Signs that read 'Frontier Ahead!' That sort of thing. Maybe even minefields."

One night after the children were finally tucked away and before mate dozed off in front of Haim Yavin, we agreed to a daring plan — to meet again on Saturday morning, in bed.

"You know, there's this slab of wood at the entrance to our room. Let's close it," mate suggested just as the weather forecast for Jerusalem showed a young (childless) couple strolling romantically through the Jaffa Gate.

"Great idea," I said, mustering up more enthusiasm than I felt. The truth is, I liked those Saturday mornings when my two precious miracles of creation cuddled up in bed with us — especially in the winter when the *cholent* does its slow sizzle on the kerosene spaceheater, the rain patters on the roof, and the half-read *Jerusalem Post* Friday edition covers us like a quilt.

But just as Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden, so this bliss was doomed to end. As the children grew, the bed shrank while, unbeknownst to us, Number Three was already journeying down my Fallopian tubes.

How to break it to the children that they would have to butter their own challah and sugar their own Rice Krispies on Sabbath morning? Then, just as natural as pushing my way into the queue at the bus stop, the idea hit me: Bribery.

Thus, the Sabbath Plate became a permanent feature in our home. The Sabbath Plate — or plates, depending on the number of children that have to be kept out of their parents' frazzled hair — is any kind or colour of plate placed on the dining-room table by the horny parent before retiring on Friday night.

On it are spread in glorious array squares of gooey milk chocolate, feta-feta-scented Biall, contorted pretzels, sugared Shalva, peanut-flavoured Bamba, Kef-li, Chip-li, Tov-li, Ra-li — in short, any combination of sweets and plastic junk which can keep a kid busy for more than five minutes and fill his stomach till at least 8.30 a.m.

On the first Friday afternoon before the introduction of the Sabbath Plate, right after the "Mickey Mouse" show, I gathered my six-and-a-half-year-old and my three-year-old to my apron strings.

"What's tonight?" I asked, just to jolt them out of the comatose state in which the TV had left them.

"Shabbat," the eldest replied, never missing an opportunity to out-smart his younger sister.

"Right. And this Shabbat is very special. When you wake up, you will make a detour in front of our closed door and continue ever so daintily on your little tippy toes straight to the dining-room table. There you will find a surprise. At 8 o'clock you can knock on our door, but not before."

Little did I suspect that the excitement engendered by the word "surprise" would be so overwhelming that the little monsters would wake up an hour earlier than usual the next morning.

We were awakened at 6 a.m. by incredulous exclamations and a little bickering over who had more of what. We listened as each chocolate square was savoured, each pretzel counted in English and then double-checked in Hebrew lest one sibling had received more than the other. We heard Bambas being traded for Bialls, Shalva exchanged for Kef-li.

You're the fellow from under the huppa," I whispered in mate's ear, as the dining-room table turned into a veritable stock exchange.

"Where have you been all my life? Blah, blah, blah and sweet nothing," I added for romance.

As the weeks went by, another kind of bargaining ensued.

"Just 15 more minutes, please," I begged when the kids knocked on the door at 8 a.m.

"Just 25 minutes more, pretty please," we pleaded the next week. Here we were, two consenting adults, bargaining for time alone from two pipsqueaks who could barely reach the doorknob.

Now, like Mickey Mouse on Friday afternoons, the Sabbath Plate is a firmly entrenched tradition. As soon as Number Three could sit up, he entered the Sabbath Plate scene, with the two big siblings taking care of his nutritional needs until I make my entrance *a la* Loretta Young.

The Plate has taught me four basic principles of family life:

1. Doors close.
2. Husbands can be right.
3. Bribery works.
4. Mothers can be wives.

ON ITS own the avocado is somewhat bland, but mixed with other foods and spices, it develops a marvellous flavour.

The quickest avocado snack is just to mash the flesh and spread it on bread or crackers, and then to sprinkle it with salt, paprika, curry powder, granulated garlic or mustard powder.

However, with more time and patience, you can produce any variety of palate-tingling dips, soups, cocktail snacks and desserts. Avocados evoke the inventive natures of people who like to experiment in the kitchen. Remember, though, that avocado tends to discolour quickly once the inner fruit is exposed; the best preventive measure is a few drops of lemon or any other citrus juice.

Avocado Cheese Balls

1 large ripe avocado
few drops of lemon juice
9 per cent. cream cheese
1 tsp. vanilla essence
2 heaped tbs. sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
½ C. desiccated nuts

Cut the avocado in half, remove the stone and run a sharp, pointed knife around the rim of the fruit to remove it easily from the peel. Spoon the fruit into a bowl. Sprinkle with lemon juice and mash to a smooth texture. Add an equal quantity of cream cheese, then vanilla essence, sugar and cinnamon. Mix thoroughly until all ingredients are properly blended. Form mixture into small balls and roll in nuts. Refrigerate for at least 4 hours before eating.

Avocado on Toast

4 thick slices of toasted white bread, spread with butter or margarine
1 large avocado, stoned, peeled and thinly sliced
¼ C. grated cheddar cheese
black olives
prepared mustard

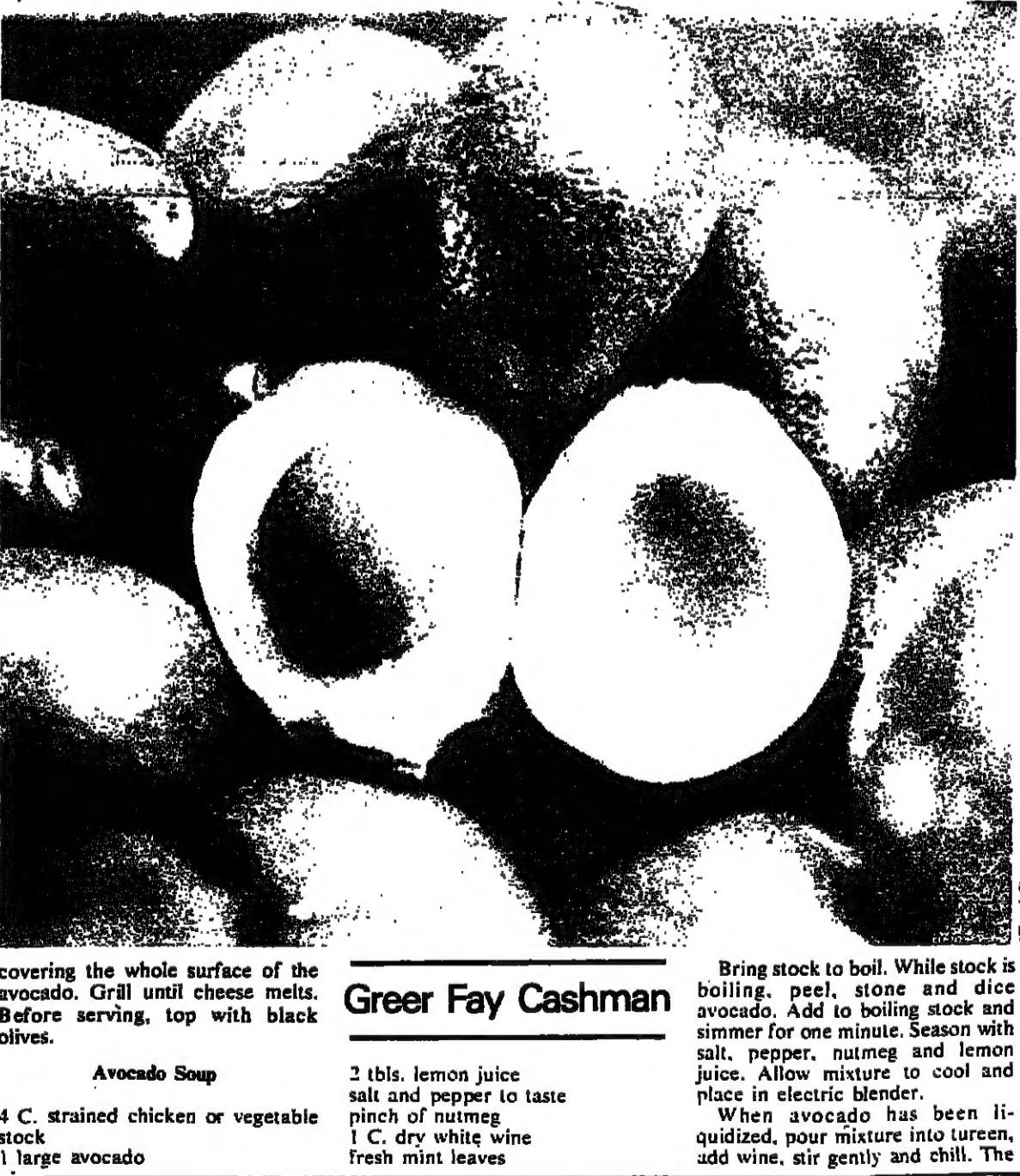
Place avocado slices on toasted bread, brush lightly with mustard and sprinkle with grated cheese, covering the whole surface of the avocado. Grill until cheese melts. Before serving, top with black olives.

Avocado Soup

2 tbs. lemon juice
salt and pepper to taste
pinch of nutmeg
1 C. dry white wine
fresh mint leaves

4 C. strained chicken or vegetable stock
1 large avocado

Inventive avocado



flavour may be a little sharp for some palates. To make it more mellow, add one tablespoon of sugar. Garnish with mint leaves when serving.

Avocado Dessert

1 stale sponge cake
¼ C. sweet red wine
1 package lemon, lime or banana jelly
1 large avocado
1 container sweet cream
2 C. fresh strawberries

Crumble cake and saturate with wine. Press mixture into the base of a spring-form tube pan. Place in refrigerator. Dissolve jelly according to directions on package. Stone, peel and mash the avocado. Add to the jelly. Add cream and sugar. Beat with electric mixer until all ingredients are properly blended. Leave mixture in a cool place until almost set, then whisk again for three minutes. Pour into tube pan and cover surface with strawberries. Place in refrigerator for 2 hours. Remove spring-form before serving.

Quick Avocado Dessert

½ an avocado per person
lemon juice
sugar
cinnamon
vanilla essence

Halve and stone avocados. Run pointed knife around rim to loosen edges. (Leave fruit in skin). Sprinkle with lemon juice, sugar, cinnamon and vanilla essence according to taste. For an even better flavour, use a few drops of your favourite liqueur. Creme de Menthe is particularly good.

Incidentally, avocados are rich in proteins, vitamins and minerals, but beware of your avocado intake if you are on a weight-reducing diet. Half of an average-sized avocado — without any additives — has 132 calories, and since few people eat avocado without any form of garnish, the caloric value is deceptive.



Give a helping hand

The elderly of Israel feel the economic strain more than most. The services that care for them are beset by budgetary cuts, a worrying situation with winter approaching. The Jerusalem Post Forsake Me Not Fund maintains and enlarges these services.

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Editor and
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Editor

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Tevet 26, 5744 • Rabi-Awwal 27, 1404

No winners at the Awali

THE ATTACKS against Israeli troops in southern Lebanon are mounting in frequency and intensity. Rather than providing more security for the troops in Lebanon, Israel's pullback to the Awali River has exposed them to greater physical dangers. The cause lies in the deadly logic of occupation.

Israel's withdrawal to the Awali was (and still is) conceived as an interim measure, a harbinger of further withdrawal. The line was chosen for military reasons, including the premise that the river bridges could provide convenient means of control. Moreover, before pulling back further, Israel was determined to arrange a locally-based security network that would keep terrorists at bay and prevent attacks against Israel's northern settlements. It was hoped that such a network would eventually be incorporated in the defence system of the central Lebanese government.

Events did not, however, proceed as planned. The army showed little sensitivity to the sensibilities of the local population. Long under the thumb of the PLO, the local population, largely Shi'ite, found itself again in conflict with a foreign occupier.

When this led to attacks against Israeli soldiers, the army, in self-defence, took repressive measures. The climax came after the car-bomb attack at Tyre in November.

The army's response was to effectively close the bridges and curtail access between north and south. Bridge crossings proceeded at a snail's pace, causing undue harassment of the population, and damaging the economy of southern Lebanon.

Lebanese trucks bearing goods are forced to wait as much as two days before being permitted to cross in either direction, while Israeli trucks cross quickly. In addition, individuals are harassed by anxious soldiers, and Red Cross officials, Lebanese parliamentarians and others with even Israeli permits tell of harrowing indignities. The result is that we have alienated the population of southern Lebanon all the more, increasing the incentives for attacks against our troops. No statistics have been released on the comparative number of attacks before and after the new bridges policy was implemented, but the assumption is that they have risen rather than declined.

A population that Israel was counting upon to be a good neighbour to the north, willing to keep terrorists out, has been turned into a sea of hostility, intent on getting Israel off their backs, and fast.

Israel has no choice but to withdraw. Good argument can be made for immediate withdrawal. But the government still hopes to do so — in concert with the U.S. — after the central Lebanese government is in a position to reassert some authority in the south as well as the north. This would have to be through the Lebanese Army.

Israeli officials take heart from the successful action of the Lebanese Army last week in Beirut, when it took positions from resisting forces near the Sabra and Shatilla camps. That action provided an infusion to the Jemayel regime and may reinvigorate the process of national reconciliation as it is termed in Beirut.

But if Israel's government and army are intent on staying at the present Awali line until a local and Lebanese-directed defence system is in place — a process that can only be measured in months — then they must also urgently review the present policies on the ground, which have heightened, not lessened, the dangers to Israeli troops in southern Lebanon, and planted the seeds of future hostility.

BRITISH RECORDS

(Continued from Page One)

Further progress has been made with the defence negotiations with Egypt.

In the discussion which followed Salisbury's remarks, "there was general agreement that in spite of the value of a strong Israeli contribution to Middle East defence, it would be wiser to defer for the time being the suggested approach to the U.S. government on this matter."

Perhaps the cabinet was influenced by a "top secret" memorandum to the prime minister from the Chiefs of Staff, dated April 28, 1953, which suggested that "Arab goodwill is more important to us than that of Israel. You may wish to discuss whether this would still hold good in the event of a final breakdown in our negotiations with Egypt. If this occurred, we should have to consider the advisability of basing our Middle East strategy primarily on cooperation with Israel."

It is interesting to note references in the papers to remarks made by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion in 1951 which showed that he saw the proposed relationship between Britain and Israel developing into a situation in which Israel would be treated as if it were a member of the British Commonwealth.

A British Foreign Office official

commented at the time: "It is hard to see how we could place our relations with Israel on a Commonwealth footing."

Another 1953 document is a report by Marcus Sieff on the stability of the Middle East, which he sent to Churchill on May 1 following a visit to Israel.

Sieff described Israel as having "a viable economy" and stated that British policy "has insufficient regard for the strengthening of bonds between the two countries."

There could be no effective defence of the area if Israel was excluded, he stated, and he urged Britain to give Israel "equality of treatment with her neighbours" to show that Britain was "resolved on a fair, realistic and speedy solution to the present deadlock in Arab-Israel relations."

Foreign Office official, P. Ramsonbottom, wrote the following comment: "Sieff is a very sincere man and genuinely believes in Israel's future and uses his money and influence to help her."

He described Sieff's report as "well written but of course far too optimistic about Israel's economic prospects. It is far too early to state categorically that Israel is a 'viable economy.' Present evidence is to the contrary."

REAGAN

(Continued from Page One)

peace in Lebanon was "long and hard." But he insisted progress is being made, adding that this would have been impossible without the presence of the marines and other members of the peace-keeping force.

Reagan insisted Jemayel was taking steps to broaden the political base of his government. The American leader noted — as he has on several recent occasions — that all the various Lebanese factions

recognized Jemayel's government at the first round of the Geneva national reconciliation talks.

Reagan's top supporter in the Senate, Majority Leader Howard Baker of Tennessee, recently told Secretary of State George Schultz that the president must reconsider his Lebanese policy by the end of January or risk congressional efforts to change the mandate of the marine presence. Congress is formally due to reconvene January 23.

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The imperialism of annexation

By REUVEN ALBERG

IN A RECENT radio news bulletin Geula Cohen was quoted as saying that we may have to invade Jordan. And, she said, "we will come to Amman not as strangers." Of course not. After all, as everyone knows, we really "own" Jordan.

In an article in *Ma'ariv* just over a year ago, Prof. Joseph Nedava, one of the leading proponents of "Greater Israel," suggested that we could take the million-odd Arabs of the West Bank and Gaza and give them "free land" in Jordan, thus solving the demographic problem. This also implied that Jordan is rightfully ours, and that we would "take it over." He did not say what we would do with the people now living on this "free land."

These are just a couple of examples of the gems of wisdom in the declarations and writings of propagandists and ideologists of the annexationist policy.

What emerges from a fairly exhaustive study of these is a picture of 19th-century imperialism, of the hate-filled rivalry of ethnic groups such as has characterized Eastern Europe, of frenetic Jewish messianism, of abandonment of two of the noblest aspects of modern civilization, democracy and liberalism. For anyone brought up in the tradition of the latter, the outpourings of our Greater Israel fanatics can only arouse a terrifying apprehension for the future of the Jewish state.

There are too many Israelis who have not made any conscious examination of the reasoning and motivations of the annexationists. Many reasonable people have felt a subconscious unease about the Greater Israel activists, but they have accepted at least one of their arguments, the strategic one and so have gone docilely along with what is happening.

I WANT to examine here the beliefs of one of the most forthright exponents of the annexationist point of view, Mordechai Nisan. I have chosen him for two reasons. First, he expresses a broad spectrum of ideas and thus includes the attitudes of most of the leading writers and speakers on the Greater Israel side. And secondly, he is very frank and unapologetic, and tries to base his arguments on general principles, on "philosophic" foundations.

The latter, at least, is to be welcomed, since while everyone engaged in political debate bases his arguments on certain fundamental beliefs, those beliefs are in most cases not openly expressed. Nisan teaches foreign students at the Hebrew University, and has written several long pieces in *The Jerusalem Post*. He uses most of the arguments of the annexationists except one: he does not pretend that we will be able to bring large numbers of Jews to Israel in order to balance the demographic advantage of the Arabs. Perhaps this is because he deals with foreign students, and

knows how hard it is to persuade them to come on aliya.

IN AN ARTICLE in this paper in October 1982 entitled "The Jewish Imperative" he propounded the idea of regionalism, of "conformity to regional politics." He said that the Middle East is a region where politics are characterized by aggressiveness, violence, lack of democracy, force.

"In the Middle East government legitimacy is usually derived from coercion. In this context Israel's control over Judea and Samaria via the instruments of coercion... is consistent with the regional political norm."

In other words, this is why we came to this country as Zionists — to model our country on the regimes of Assad and on the masters of Iran and Iraq and Saudi Arabia. I have always thought that the Jews wanted to build an excellent country here and not just take on the coloration of the region. I have always thought that we wanted to make this country even better than many of the "advanced" countries of the world.

Why need any country copy the ways of its neighbours? Cannot a country be different? Switzerland has often been surrounded by illiberal regimes, from the Hapsburgs and Mussolini to communist East Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, yet it has retained its democratic character. Finland has been surrounded by non-democratic regimes, yet it has remained democratic. Japan is surrounded by non-democratic states, yet it is fostering democracy.

And here Nisan reveals his basic philosophic doctrine. "Democracy," he says, "is not the crowning glory of Israel. It is the Jewish attribute" which is our national essence. "Democracy," he says, can lead to "suicide by democracy."

These ideas, which are shared consciously or unconsciously by most of the greater Israel extremists, are the most devastating indictment possible of the present Israeli policy. For most modern Jews have been brought up in the conviction that Jewishness and democracy are essentially the same. Do Nisan and the rest of the proponents of annexation believe, then, that the Jewish tradition is antithetical to democracy and liberalism. Don't they know that the basis of democracy is the striving for social justice, for human rights, for the dignity of the individual?

THIS IS NOT the place to expound the principal ideas of Judaism; enough to say that the whole thrust of Judaism has been in the direction of these ideals, from the provisions

in the Torah for the welfare of the day-labourer, the debtor, the poor and the unfortunate to the thundering of the prophets against the corruption of the powerful and the rich.

In what other religion do you find the individual possessed of such direct access to God? And in rabbinic and modern times the Jewish tradition has set an example for the diffusion of education and the encouragement of talents.

What, then, are the essential elements of Judaism in the view of our annexationists? They never spell them out. They always speak in vague generalities. Nisan mentions "national values," "national spirit," "parts of the homeland rich in historical memory and Jewish meaning."

In other words, if we adopt the policy of Nisan and his friends and forgo democracy and liberalism in favour of a regime of "coercion" in the West Bank, we will be scrapping not only the humane and enlightened attitude but will be jettisoning our Jewish heritage itself. What will be left? Only a feeling of imperialist overlordship as we ride through the West Bank, protected every kilometre by Israeli soldiers and gun-slinging "homemakers" and can say, "All this belongs to us."

NISAN brings up the strategic argument. This is an element which opponents of annexation should address more fully, because it is an argument that influences many reasonable people. For if it is indeed true that by not annexing the West Bank we are relinquishing our ability to defend ourselves and are making our security dependent on the whims and designs of any and all Arabs to our east, then of course it would be simply idiotic to give up the West Bank.

But would we really be endangering our security? No one in his right mind would want us to leave the West Bank without taking proper precautions. The Allon Plan envisaged this, as do demilitarized zones. It is fatuous to talk as if all the military aspects are considered only by one side, by the annexationists.

What actually happens is that people call on their emotions to decide for them whether we should rule over the Arabs on the West Bank, and then bring in the military aspect to bolster their convictions. Of course the military experts know more about this question than the laymen. But are all the generals on one side? The annexationists have their Sharon and Eitan and the late Avraham Yoffe. But the anti-annexationists have Rabin and Bar-Lev, Gur and Yadin and the late Yigal Allon. They claim that if we returned the

West Bank to Jordan, the Jordanian border would be too close to our towns. If we had peace would this matter? Every country has towns near its neighbours' borders. Even now, Eilat is very close to the Jordanian border, and so is Kiryat Shmona, and very few people feel that we must take over slices of Jordanian territory to protect them.

WE ARE ALWAYS hearing that the Arabs do not want to sit down and talk with us. But isn't this a distortion of the facts? We say also that we are willing to discuss anything, without any preconditions. Yet the next moment, Begin or Shamir proclaims that the West Bank will remain under Israeli sovereignty forever. Jordan and Egypt and the West Bank Arabs say, "No, we will not accept this."

Isn't this talking together? True, it isn't done sitting at a round table, but it is talking together nevertheless. Shamir and Burg say, "We will graciously allow you to be autonomous, second-class citizens," and the Arabs say, "No." This also is talking together. But there will be no progress or peace until we talk differently.

In another *Post* article, "Begin's Legacy" (September 11, 1983) Nisan restates his basic philosophy: only those regimes which are extremist can succeed, regimes such as Iran and Russia. This is what the rightist brand of "Jewish nation-building" has come to.

IN HIS MOST recent *Post* article (November 13, 1983) Nisan gives free rein to many of the imperialist emotions which characterize so many of our annexationists, and the result is some of the most outlandish and hair-raising propositions imaginable.

He draws a muddled picture of recent world history and presents the United States as a country which has not had the sense to know that Russia is its chief enemy, and so has tried to be "even-handed" and has failed to engage in confrontations with the Communist enemy. This, he says, is because the U.S. is unrealistically idealistic and righteous and wants to be loved by other nations, especially the Third World.

He talks a great deal about American actions in Iran and comes to some amazing conclusions.

"America passed supplies through Iran to Russia during World War II." This, he contends, was a stupid thing to do because it was "strengthening a possible future enemy." The fact that America and Russia were together engaged in a life-and-death struggle against Nazi Germany does not make any difference to him. After the war, America was too unintelligent, he says, to distinguish between the

"good" imperialism of Britain in Iran and the "bad" imperialism of Russia there, and so pressured both of them "even-handedly" to get out.

Then Iran had the shah, and again America spoiled everything. "The persistent plea for reform, liberalism, democratization (what have I forgotten?) served to undermine the shah's power in the 1970s." This is certainly a novel rewriting of history. Most of us know that it was exactly the contrary, that it was the tyranny of the shah, his secret police and his torture chambers, that undermined his regime.

HOW DOES this foolish American desire for accommodation, for solving insoluble conflicts, affect our region? Nisan blithely ignores the fact that America has been acting to further its own interests.

"When Israel finally invades Lebanon in June 1982 to destroy the Syrian-PLO power base," he says, "America the Good enters as perennial mediator to bridge the formidable gap between Jerusalem and Damascus. Maybe Israel should have been encouraged in September 1982 to finish off the job." (September 1982 was the month when we tried a new tactic, letting the Phalange loose, and the result was Sabra and Shatilla.)

Just what does "finish off the job" mean? Should we have conquered all of Lebanon? Should we have killed all the opponents of Jemayel, and all the members of the PLO? Should we have conquered Syria so that it could not bother us in Lebanon?

But wait! All is not lost! We can still "take over" about half of Lebanon — if only America lets us. "American policy opposes the partition of Lebanon between Israel and Syria, just as it opposed the partition of Iran between Britain and Russia."

So, if America stopped being such a moralistic busybody, we could end up in possession of a large part of Lebanon. And our Geula Cohens have their Bibles open to show that under King Solomon, southern Lebanon was indeed Israel. How many more Israeli young men would have to die to satisfy this imperialist longing of our annexationists? In other words, it is not only the West Bank that our Greater Israel ideologists are interested in. What they want is to make Israel bigger ("greater") in all directions.

According to reliable estimates, about half of Israel is expansionist and about half wants compromise and peace. It is not too late to tip the balance to the side of sanity. What we need to do above all is to examine closely the real desires of the annexationists and condemn outright the morbid emotionalism which fires their imperialist dreams.

The writer is a former teacher of history at Bar-Ilan University.

READERS' LETTERS

LOST RELATIVE

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*: Sir, — It has recently come to my attention that my maternal grandfather had a brother who never left Russia. I never even knew of his existence until this year. Since my grandmother and her sisters are all gone, as are my parents, I have no immediate relative to ask about this great-uncle and his family.

The family name is Kalimansky, and his name was Achiel, or Yacheel. They came from a small village called Lysynka, in the province of Poltava in the Ukraine, USSR. Achiel had several children, among them his only son, Avrum Sender. My grandmother's name was Tzivil Kalimansky Medvedovsky (Americanized to Medov).

I am most anxious to hear from anyone who has any information regarding this family.

ROSEANNA TENDLER WORTH
Michigan, U.S.

IN NEED

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*: Sir, — We are a day care centre catering for 165 children. We are urgently in need of a black and white television set in good working order and wonder if any of your generous readers would donate such a set.

We would gladly arrange to have this collected in the Jerusalem area — our phone number is 631016.

A SKLAN
Hon. Director
Fanny Williams
Day Care Centre
Jerusalem.

ARTIST DAVID BOMBERG

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*: Sir, — I am writing with reference to the excellent and far-ranging article by Meir Ronnen in *The Jerusalem Post* of November 11, on the exhibition at the Israel Museum of works by my late step-father, David Bomberg.

That this exciting and inspiring exhibition was mounted is due to the perception of the Director, Martin Weil and the superb research by Stephanie Rachum. That it took Israel so long to recognize Bomberg is, perhaps, less cause for congratulation.

I am not surprised that Mr. Ronnen concentrates his review on the Palestine period, 1923-1927. What does surprise me is that Mr. Ronnen seems unaware that Bomberg has, for over twenty-five years, been regarded by our foremost critics and writers as one of the greatest British painters of this century, particularly admired for the later large landscapes and portraits.

The Arts Council Exhibition of 1958 was planned posthumously. Bomberg, sadly, was not aware that recognition of his great but neglected talent would come so soon after his death. That exhibition was followed by a highly-acclaimed Retrospective at the Tate, numerous one man exhibitions at Marlborough Fine Art, Fischer Fine Art, the Anthony d'Offay Gallery, the Whitechapel Art Gallery and others. He was also selected by the *Sunday Times* as one of "The Thousand Makers of the Twentieth Century." In 1986 there will be a se-

cond Retrospective at the Tate. A book on Bomberg by Richard Cork will be published to coincide with this.

In view of the above, I am astonished that Meir Ronnen finds no merit in Bomberg's post-Palestine work. Bomberg worked powerfully to the very end.

"David Bomberg started at the top and worked his way down?" Patently, Mr. Ronnen must surely be alone in this strangely parochial assessment.

DINORA DAVIES-REES
London.

Meir Ronnen comments: I did not say that Bomberg's late work was without merit. But I do feel that it lacked the accomplishment and wholeness of both conception and design and harmony of colour that characterized his early work as well as his equally fine Palestine paintings.

As I share this view with very many others, both here and in England, I think it wrong to term it "parochial." As I wrote, it was the very lack of appreciation of his later work that led to a decline in the artist's health. Finally, I must again point out that the Israel Museum show was built around Bomberg's work in Palestine; and that the texts of the catalogue, entitled *David Bomberg in Palestine*, were devoted entirely to this period.

DECEPTION OF THE WORKERS

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*: Sir, — What kind of "advance" is the 17.9% cost-of-living increment that the Histadrut and the Government cooked-up between them to mollify labour?

I call it a fraud and a grand deception of the workers! In the 36 days until the balance of this increment is paid-out, salaried workers stand to lose at least an equal amount in additional inflationary pressure on their real wages.

The so-called "advance" is really a cover-up and should be called a "regression" payment. Only we keep regressing and losing more and more real income and nothing seems to be helping the situation.

The Histadrut should have pressed for no less than a timely (December) payment to all salaried workers of the full amount by which their wages have eroded. Less than this (and a further delay in implementation), only perpetuates and deepens the gap in real wages.

As a government employee, I cannot myself negotiate a new contract and yet I believe that what is agreed in salary should be a real wage and if costs rise so should salaries. This is clear in the linked nature of most contracts in financial provisions. But it is neither the spirit

nor the letter of the contract when adjustments are piecemeal or delayed. The current mechanism for cost-of-living adjustments must be revised.

The cost-of-living payments should be made on a monthly not a quarterly basis. The government sector should certainly be in the lead in caring for people in implementing beneficial changes. Furthermore, salaries should be paid on a bi-monthly basis. This will partially alleviate some of the awful shocks people are now experiencing from sudden price rises. There seems to be no way to cope with such surprises and closer paydays will at least give workers a better chance to manage.

AVIGDOR ROOT

Jerusalem.

PENFRIENDS

DANIEL SULTMAN (27), of 19 Dorset Road, Lytham St. Anne's, Lancashire FY8 2ED, England, works in an insurance office and would like to correspond with an Israeli young woman between the ages of 20 and 28. He likes sports and pop music.

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To obtain information and application forms, please apply by postcard to the Ben-Gurion Fund for the Encouragement of Research, the Histadrut Executive, General Federation of Labour, 93 Rehov Arlosoroff, Tel Aviv, or to a university research authority.

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